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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Record-early $134.3M budget law

» $338,751 in credit union refunds

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday afternoon a record-early budget law capping the CNMI government's operational budget at $134.33 million for fiscal year 2015, inclusive of the salaries of 2,778 public officials and employees and funding for public services such as education, health, safety and pension obligations. But the governor raised some concerns on salary and education funding provisions that need further actions.

See BUDGET on Page 4

ARRESTING GEAR

WEST FIELD, Tinian—U.S. Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadrons 171 and 172, both currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, use a jackhammer to drive a stake into the ground as part of the M31 Marine Corps expeditionary arresting gear system installation in preparation for Valiant Shield 2014. Arresting gear is used to stop aircraft quickly in case they land on a short runway or experience an emergency. Valiant Shield is a biennial exercise that focuses on training that enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces.

U.S. MARINE CORPS/CPL. DAVID A. WALTERS

An FA-18C Hornet with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115, currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force catches an arresting wire on the West Field of Tinian during Valiant Shield 2014.

LANCE CPL. AUSTIN SCHLOSSER

Exercise Valiant Shield begins on Tinian

By STAFF SGT. WARREN PEACE
ANDERSON AIR FORCE BASE GUAM

TINIAN, North Marianas Islands—U.S. service members spent the past two weeks on Tinian preparing the site for participants in Valiant Shield 2014, which commenced Sept. 15 at various locations on land and in the sea, in and around Tinian and Guam.

The approximately 450 Marines, U.S. Navy sailors and Guam National Guardsmen are part of the estimated 18,000 U.S. forces from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, as well as two aircraft carriers, 19 surface ships, and more than 200 aircraft, participating in Valiant Shield.

"There are other entities coming, and we

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Apple had more than 4 million advance orders of its new, larger iPhones.
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ASIA
Two British tourists are found battered to death in southern Thailand.
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LIFE & STYLE
Some 33 million have downloaded U2's new album in the first six days of its release.
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Local

Corpsmen conduct mass casualty exercise on Tinian

By LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN—Corpsmen with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 participating in Valiant Shield 2014 conducted a mass casualty drill here on Sept. 10 in anticipation of the commencement of the exercise.

The drill tests the capabilities and knowledge of the field medical staff to be able to provide medical services from the treatment of common illnesses to critical medical evacuations.

According to Navy Lt. David Bolthouse, the medical officer for MWSS-171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, the goal was to simulate wartime chaos and push the medical team to the limit, "while at the same time testing the dispatch and flightline's ability to get someone on an aircraft and en route to a medical facility in, case of serious injuries."

According to Bolthouse, drills like the mass casualty exercise help iron out any communication problems before the start of an exercise and allow for more fluid movements in case of an actual emergency.

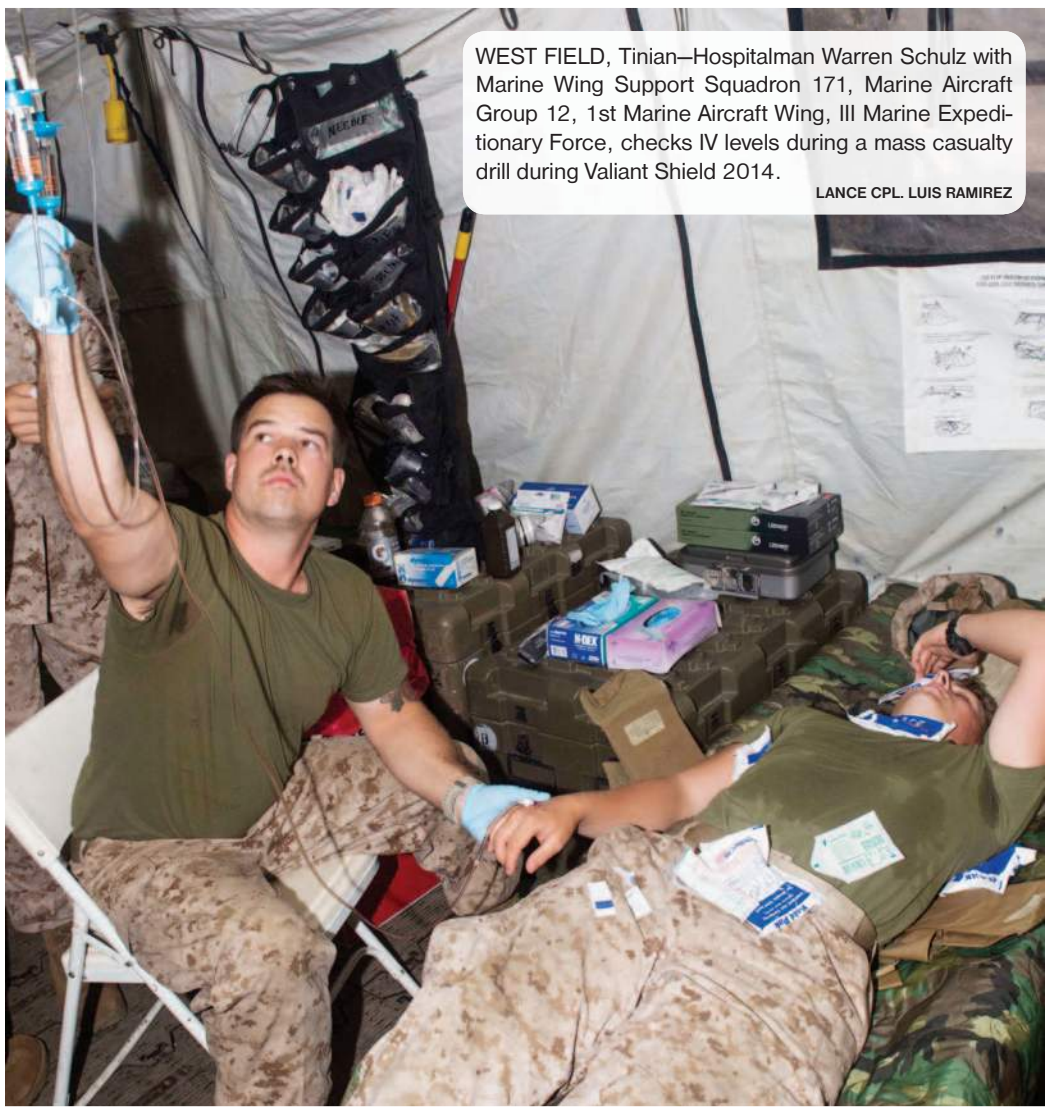
"One of the most challenging parts of these drills is time management," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Travis Pullen, a preventive medicine technician. "During the drill, it's all practice. However, in a real emergency we have to be able to treat everybody in a timely manner without overlooking any injuries."

Events like this help corpsmen refine their skills and gain confidence in their actions.

"My team did an outstanding job," said Bolthhouse. "They were calm, cool, and collected. They didn't stray from their training, and they provided expedient care to those who came in today."

With the drill completed, Bolthouse said he has full faith that his medical team is ready for any emergency that might happen during their time on Tinian.

Valiant Shield, which is slated to take place from Sept. 15-23, is a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets, offering joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.



WEST FIELD, Tinian—Hospitalman Warren Schulz with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, checks IV levels during a mass casualty drill during Valiant Shield 2014.
LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Insular energy bill passes US House

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House of Representative passed yesterday a bill that aims to provide technical, policy, and financial expertise to the U.S. insular areas with the goal of lowering energy costs.

H.R. 83, introduced by Delegate Donna Christensen (D-Virgin Islands), requires the Secretary of the Interior to put together energy teams for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and for the Freely Associated States. The energy teams will develop individualized plans for each area and assist in putting the plans into action.

In his statement of support for H.R. 83, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) focused on the need to lower the cost of electricity in the Northern Marianas and all the insular areas. "Lowering the cost of electricity is extremely important to the people I represent in the Northern Mariana Islands," the congressman said.

"Residential customers in my district pay 40 cents per kilowatt-hour—three times the U.S. average. And those electricity bills are eating away at families' paychecks. That's why I support H.R. 83."

H.R. 83 will help local governments develop and implement plans to reduce reliance on the imported fossil fuels that make electricity so expensive in America's insular areas.

The plans will propose technical, financial, and policy actions that island governments and local utilities can take to move the islands toward alternative sources of energy—especially renewables. The plans will also show how to improve efficiency beginning with production, through distribution, and at the point of use, so that every kilowatt generated in the islands goes unwasted.

The establishment of insular energy action teams is also a provision of Sablan's bill, H.R. 2200, and of its Senate companion, S.1237, which passed the Senate on June 18.

Addressing high energy costs in the islands has been a priority for Sablan and all the insular area representatives. Last year, Christensen and Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), along with Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi (D-Puerto Rico), Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoan), and Sablan were successful in convincing Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, on the islands.

About 120 families were added to the rolls in the Northern Marianas and the assistance that all 420 families now receive is as much as double the previous amount.

"Helping some families with the high cost of energy was important, but only a partial fix," said Sablan. "We need to work to lower costs for everyone.

"That's what Ms. Christensen's bill promises to do. That's why I support her effort and congratulate her on her success today." ***(Office of the Delegate)***

Man allegedly knocks out girlfriend in beating

After allegedly beating up his girlfriend and knocking her out, a man poured water on her head to wake her up in San Antonio on Sunday night.

The woman, who had swollen eyes and scratches on her face, managed to run to the San Antonio Church, where she asked for help from a priest.

Raiton Datius, 46, was arrested early Monday morning on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $1,250 cash bail and required a third-party custodian.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Datius.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy urged the court to increase the original bail of $1,250 cash to $3,000 cash due to seriousness of the charges but the judge denied it.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report that a police officer went to the San Antonio Church on Sunday at 10:54pm in response to a disturbance complaint.

Skilling said the officer met with the priest and the injured victim, whose short pants was torn and had dirt and grass debris all over her. Medics came and brought the victim to the hospital.

Skilling said preliminary investigation showed that Datius and his girlfriend got into an argument after she purchased some beer and lost the change. Datius accused his girlfriend of stealing. After reaching their house, Datius allegedly punched and slapped her in the face.

The suspect then pulled her short pants like he was trying to tear it off. He grabbed her and threw her into the jungle. She lost consciousness when she fell face down on the ground.

Datius tried to wake up his girlfriend by calling her name, then poured water on her head to wake her up.

When the victim regained consciousness, she ran away, but Datius chased her and apologized. The victim ran all the way to San Antonio Church, where she asked help from the priest. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM
Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.
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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

Cigarette tax now up 75 cents a pack

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Smokers will start seeing an increase in cigarette costs following Gov. Eloy S. Inos' signing of a law increasing cigarette tax by 75 cents a pack effective yesterday. After three years, the cigarette tax will increase by another $1 a pack.

The new health and revenue-generating law brings the cigarette tax to $2.75 a pack, up from $2.

What this means to most smokers in the CNMI is that a pack of cigarettes that previously retails for $3.75 could go up to $4.50, and then to $5.50 after the third year.

Arnaldo "Mando" Guban, resident manager of Western Sales Trading Co., the biggest cigarette wholesaler in the CNMI, said yesterday that the impact on cigarette retail prices would be immediate.

He said one carton of cigarettes will now have a total tax of $27.50, up from only $20.

"We will be advising our Guam office of the new law. … In my view, the sale of cigarettes would weaken in the first few weeks or months because of the tax increase but eventually the sales will be back to normal when people have become used to the new prices. That price increase will be somehow balanced by the upcoming minimum wage increase of 50 cents," Guban told *Saipan Tribune*.

» Another new law provides 90-day tax amnesty period

WSTCO carries the brands Camel, Capri, Kool, Pall Mall and Doral, among other things.

In the presence of lawmakers, Cabinet members and other government officials including Customs Director Joe Mafnas, the governor signed yesterday House Bill 18-118 into Public Law 18-64.

The bill was authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan).

In signing the bill, the governor noted that 7 percent of the excise tax collected under this section would be reserved for the solid waste management program.

He also noted that 3 percent of excise taxes collected under this section will be reserved for cancer treatment and programs, and will be deposited into a special account separate from the general fund.

This will be appropriated to provide financial aid to nonprofit and governmental organizations that provide patient directed services for the prevention of cancers, its treatment, diagnosis and other services that may be required to access treatment, including but not limited to, off-island transportation and temporary housing.

Inos noted the presence of Commonwealth Cancer Association's program director Juan L. Babauta at the bill signing.

During the signing, the governor said the cigarette tax hike increase bill was "highly debated" but he said in the end, parties came up with a version that's reasonable to everyone.

The governor also said 50 percent of all excise taxes collected will be deposited into an account to fund the payment of the government's share of the Group Health and Life Insurance benefits and for enforcement.

Tax amnesty

The governor signed yesterday a second revenue-generating bill that provides for another tax amnesty period—this time for a 90-day period.

Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-166, House Draft 1, is now Public Law 18-65.

Under the tax amnesty law, taxpayers may request for the waiver of penalty and interest imposed on late-filed tax returns, under-reported income, and delinquent tax liabilities.

This is the fourth tax amnesty program that the CNMI government has established. But Sablan and the governor said it was only because the third one provided was only for a short period of time, from Dec. 4, 2013, to Jan. 1, 2014.

They said when taxpayers flocked to the Division of Tax and Revenue to avail of the tax amnesty, it took the division an additional 10 days to provide the proper documents for filing, which gave the filers some two weeks to take advantage of the program.

The new law provides a tax amnesty period that will expire 90 days after its enactment into law. This means the tax amnesty period will be until mid-December.

Inos, during the signing, said the last tax amnesty program generated close to half a million dollars.

"We don't know the revenue that will be generated by this new law. But folks out there are waiting," he said, adding that this is a "very strict" law.

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Burglar gets 2 yrs. in prison; his lookout gets nine months

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A burglar was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison, while his accomplice who served as a lookout was slapped with a nine-month prison term. The two burglarized a house in As Teo and stole assorted jewelry and other items.

Gorjonny V. Camacho, 21, pleaded guilty to burglary, while George Grover, 23, pleaded guilty to receiving stolen property as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio sentenced Camacho to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years, with credit for seven days of time served.

Kim-Tenorio sentenced Grover to five years in prison, all suspended except for nine months, with credit for a month and 14 days of time served.

After serving their sentences, Camacho and Grover will each be placed on probation for five years. They were each required to pay a $500 fine, $100 court costs and $500 probation fees.

Camacho and Grover were ordered to pay restitution to the victim couple in the amount of $5,096.97 before their probation ends.

The two were each required to perform 300 hours of community service, complete any recommended counseling by the Community Guidance Center, and write a letter of apology to the victims.

Kim-Tenorio found out that Grover has a bench warrant in a traffic case. She quashed the warrant and ordered him to appear in court on Sept. 18 for a change of plea hearing.

After the sentencing, Kim-Tenorio remanded the defendants into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Attorney Joaquin DLG. Torres and assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as respective counsels for Camacho and Grover. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas represented the government.

Police arrested the two in May.

According to police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, Camacho admitted to police that he burglarized the house on April 11, 2014, with Grover serving as the lookout.

Camacho confessed pawning some of the stolen gold jewelry to two pawnshops and that he blew all the money at a poker arcade.

Pangelinan said some of the stolen items were recovered from the pawnshops.

Pangelinan stated in her report that a police officer responded to a house in As Teo on April 11, 2014, where a burglary happened. Missing were the owner's jewelry worth $3,000, two iPods, two Fossil watches, two cell phones, and money in an unspecified amount.

Pangelinan said that on May 5, 2014, Camacho's sister appeared at the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and told them that Camacho and Grover were behind the burglary at a house in As Teo.

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235-2030

BUDGET

From Page 1

The budget law also sets aside $338,751 to pay back members of the government employees' credit union who do not have outstanding loans.

Inos signed the 2015 budget in the presence of Cabinet members, lawmakers, and other government employees on Capital Hill at past 1:30pm yesterday.

He once again urged everyone to continue pursuing new revenue-generating measures to avoid catastrophic fiscal situation and maintain fiscal sustainability.

This is the earliest time in CNMI history that a budget bill passed the Legislature and is signed into law two weeks before the start of a new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Even after a constitutional change that disallowed continuing budget resolutions, the government saw one partial shutdown and passage of budget measures nearly by the deadline.

"I applaud the swift action of the 18th Legislature in working together to ensure that the budget for fiscal year 2015 reached my desk well before the Oct. 1st deadline. This allowed sufficient time for my thorough review and avoid any concern about the possibility of a government shutdown," the governor said in his transmittal letter to the Legislature.

Fiscal year 2015 is from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), during the budget signing ceremony, spoke of the "smooth" budget process even if the spending package reached once again a conference committee from the House and Senate.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the budget bill and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the Legislature, working with the governor's budget and management manager Vicky Villagomez and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, "made the [budget] process a whole lot easier."

"We wrapped up conference [committee] process in a day," he said.

Sablan reiterated that there is no such thing as a perfect budget but the spending package addresses the CNMI's "pressing needs." He also thanked his colleagues at the Legislature, the governor, and the media.

The budget measure, House Bill 18-201, House Draft 3, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1, is now Public Law 18-66.

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the early passage and signing of the budget law is a showcase of "unity" of the present leadership.

'Duplication'

In his transmittal letter, the governor pointed out that his budget for the Public School System accounted for 42 new positions and certain salary adjustments for existing positions.

He said notwithstanding the fact that this was accounted for, the budget bill that passed through the Legislature increased the funding for PSS by over $1.161 million to hire 35 new teachers and cover salary adjustments.

Inos said rather than duplicate his efforts, the additional funding "should have been earmarked specifically to pay for PSS' outstanding payments to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp."

PSS, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and other government entities owe CUC over $20 million in unpaid utility bills.

The governor added that the PSS section of the budget "should have specifically stated that $3,419,511 of the PSS appropriation goes toward the Maintenance of Effort Agreement payments for FY 2010 and part of FY 2011."

Salary inequities

Inos, who turns 65 on Sept. 26, said Section 607 of the budget bill overlooks his recommendation to increase the salary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary to $54,000 to put the secretary's salary on par with the salaries of other Cabinet-level appointees.

"I urge the passage of a separate legislation amending 1 CMC 8245 at the earliest possible time to address this inequity," he said.

The governor also said this budget section created inequities within the Department of Finance by increasing the salaries of only two division heads.

It also increased the directors' salaries without providing funding for the increase.

"These adjustments cannot be effectuated if funding is not identified and available within the current appropriations measure," he said.

Furthermore, the salary cap exemptions are limited to fiscal year 2015.

He said an amendment to the Salary Compensation Act should be considered to address changes, given the changes in minimum wage.

The minimum wage in the CNMI will increase by another 50 cents an hour on Sept. 30, as mandated by federal law. The minimum wage will then become $6.05 an hour, up from the current $5.55 an hour.

CW funds

Section 713 of the budget law recommends allocating $400,000 of the Commonwealth Worker, or CW, funds to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Inos pointed out that under federal law, Commonwealth Worker Funds may only be used "for the purpose of funding ongoing vocational educational curricula and program development by Commonwealth educational entities."

"Accordingly, NMTI must submit documentation of its vocational curricula and program objectives before it can be considered for Commonwealth Worker Funds," the governor said.

The governor said the CNMI's political leaders must be proactive.

"The Executive Branch is committed to pursuing enforcement actions to collect revenue, and I ask the Legislature to strive to find new sources of revenue to encourage the growth of our economy. I am dedicated to do all that I can to help the Commonwealth thrive. The Commonwealth can only grow and improve if we work in a cooperative fashion and stay focused on doing what is in the best interest of the people as a whole," he said.

Although the CNMI's financial resources have increased, Inos said a significant portion of the gains must be devoted to satisfying the CNMI's obligation to the Defined Benefit Plan members under the settlement agreement in *Johnson v. Inos*.

If the CNMI does not meet its settlement obligations, a $779-million judgment will be enforced against the Commonwealth.

For fiscal year 2015, the budget sets aside $27 million for the government's minimum guaranteed payment to the retirement settlement agreement.

Who gets what?

Under the budget law, the Judiciary gets over $4.638 million, a little over 3 percent of the year's budget.

The Legislature gets more than $5.567 million or 4 percent of the $134.33 million budget.

The Executive Branch gets over $30.135 million. This includes funds for the different executive departments and agencies, including the Office of the Attorney General, departments of Commerce, Community and Cultural Affairs, Finance, Labor, Lands and Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Public Works.

Rota or the First Senatorial District gets over $5.551 million. Tinian or the Second Senatorial District is allocated over $5.916 million. Saipan and the Northern Islands, meanwhile, gets over $2.106 million.

Different boards and commissions get over $1.481 million.

Independent programs get a total of more than $39.691 million.

These include over $4 million for Medicaid reimbursement, over $1 million for Medical Referral, and over $1,592 million in Scholarship funds, among other things.

The central government subsidy to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is $1.22 million.

PSS gets $33.441 million-plus in general fund, while the Board of Education gets $172,257.

Northern Marianas College gets over $4.405 million.

The Marianas Visitors Authority gets $1 from the general fund, as over $1 million was moved by the Legislature to PSS. MVA as the CNMI's tourism agency, however, gets millions of funding from hotel occupancy tax and other sources.

Credit union

The 2015 budget law appropriates $338,751 for the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union.

Angel Demapan, board chairman of the credit union, told *Saipan Tribune* that the budget law appropriation doesn't dissolve the credit union.

"It only allows us to pay our depositors who don't have loans. After taking of this, the CGECU will then determine its plan of action to address the members who have delinquent loans. The CGECU cannot effectively be dissolved until we square away all the liabilities," said Demapan, who personally witnessed the budget law signing as credit union chairman.

Demapan is currently on leave as press secretary because he is a candidate for a House of Representatives seat in Precinct 1.

The credit union appropriation comes after months of meetings between the credit union, its board of directors, the governor and the Legislature.

"The CGECU is very much grateful for the support of the Legislature and the administration for providing this assistance so that the CGECU can finally make whole with its depositors who do not have any outstanding loans. Unfortunately, when this new board took office, the CGECU was already battling many challenges resulting from an alarmingly high rate of delinquent loans," he said.

The disbursement of funds will be in early October.

"Our members have waited for too long, so we are definitely pleased that we have reached this point today," said Demapan. "We thank our members for their patience the past several months. With the new law in place, we are readying to roll out disbursements early next month."

EXERCISE

From Page 1

have laid down a supporting position to provide the logistics the other units need so they can focus on their mission," said Lt. Col. James Whiteker, the site commander for Tinian and the commanding officer of Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The exercise would be difficult for any other unit outside of III MEF, according to Whiteker, a native of Midland, Texas. The MEF has been regularly deploying to different austere locations in recent years to conduct expeditionary and amphibious training.

Units with III MEF routinely participate in exercises in countries such as Mongolia, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia. They are supporting Valiant Shield 2014 with Marines from 5th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I MEF, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF, and Marine Air Control Group 18, and MWSS-171, both with 1st MAW.

The Marines on Tinian began preparing for the exercise about two weeks ago, according to Whiteker. They have set up multiple tents, chow halls, gyms, and even a laundry system to ensure the troops are taken cared of while serving in a tropical environment.

"The experience our forces gain from working together helps us to provide the best possible support for our allies, partners, and friends in the region," said Rear Adm. Russell Allen, U.S. Pacific Fleet Valiant Shield exercise lead. "We will continue to be a credible, ready force in this region for decades to come."

Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps assets, offering joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. VS14 is scheduled to run through Sept. 23.

PSS share of new budget 'can be misleading'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

With the budget law signed yesterday, the Public School System receives—with its $33.44 million—about 25 percent of the $134.33 million budget passed by the Legislature.

However, Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero and PSS financial management consultant Ed Tenorio said the number can be "misleading," noting that they felt that the method taken to determine PSS' budget looked at the net budget available for appropriation rather than the total revenue sources of about $170 million.

"That's not the real picture because that's not the way you should read the Constitution," Guerrero said.

Essentially, he said, the 25 percent may look like a significant amount for PSS, but when based on the CNMI Constitution's mandate to give PSS 15 percent of total revenue sources, this means PSS will only got 19 percent of that amount, a 4-percent increase from minimum.

"The Constitution says 15 percent of that $170 million [should be for PSS]," Tenorio said.

PSS and the BOE originally proposed a budget of $40 million; yesterday's official budget of $33.44 million for PSS is short of that amount by $6 million.

Historically, PSS allocates about 80 to 85 percent of its local budget to wages and salaries for teachers, staff, and personnel, with the rest going to utilities and other cost.

In fiscal year 2014, out of its $32 million local budget, $28.8 million went to wages and salaries, $2 million to utilities, and the remaining to maintenance of facilities and operations.

But the remaining amount was not able to cover their costs as, according to PSS, they average about $3 million to 4 million in water, sewer, and power costs.

In an interview before the budget bill was signed yesterday, Tenorio said the tentative numbers for allocations for their local budget is around $29.3 million for personnel and $3.5 million for utilities.

He also stressed that PSS saves $1 million a year with cost-cutting measures it took to address utility costs.

Grateful

With Public Law 18-66 passed, PSS will be able to restore 35 of the 66 PSS full-time teachers that were cut in prior years, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan.

"I want to thank Sen. Pete Reyes and members of the Senate for securing an additional $1.1 million for PSS," she said in a statement.

The $1.1 million came as an increase to the proposed budget by the House of about $32 million.

The commissioner said she is also grateful that 1 percent of the funds from the Office of Public Auditor fees have been authorized for PSS use.

"This will allow us to purchase at least some of the primary instructional materials aligned to our English Language Arts, Math and Science standards," she said.

She also said Compact Impact and Contract Worker funds given to PSS would continue to support programs in their middle and high schools.

‘Some cops sexually abused Basa in her youth’

»Jurors continue to deliberate today in Roberto’s case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Annette N. Basa, a 36-year-old woman who pleaded guilty to sex trafficking of children, was sexually abused by some police officers when she was young, according to court documents filed in federal court by attorney Steven P. Pixley.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Monday granted Pixley’s unopposed motion to continue the sentencing of his client, Basa, from Sept. 24, 2014, to Nov. 25, 2014.

As this developed, the 12 federal court jurors will resume this morning, Wednesday, their deliberations in the case against Raymond B. Roberto.

The case against Basa and former firefighter Richard S. Benavente is somehow related to Roberto’s case. Roberto, 41, is a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife who in on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

In Basa’s sentencing memorandum filed in court in May, Pixley said it is “perhaps an understatement” to say that Basa has had a difficult childhood.

Indeed, Pixley said, Basa’s mother moved to Guam when she was young and she dropped out of school at an early age.

Pixley disclosed that Basa was also the victim of sexual abuse when she was young.

“This sexual abuse was perpetrated primarily by police officers employed by the Department of Public Safety,” said Pixley, adding that this abuse left his client with a variety of psychological problems.

Pixley retained Dr. Laura L. Post, a psychiatrist, to evaluate Basa. Post’s psychiatric evaluation of Basa was filed under seal.

Pixley said a review of Post’s psychiatric report and other evidence support a finding that Basa has significant reduced mental capacity.

At the time of her arrest on Aug. 14, 2013, Basa was reportedly the primary caregiver for her father, who is in poor health. She has remained under detention.

Last Friday, Pixley filed in court a request to continue the sentencing date from Sept. 24 to sometime in November 2014 due to Post’s unavailability on Sept. 24.

Pixley said that Post is an important expert witness for Basa and that Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy does not oppose a new sentencing date.

Badawy himself asked the court in July to continue the previous sentencing date of Aug. 29, 2014, as the prosecution needs more time to have Basa examined by their own expert.

Basa is being accused of recruiting and enticing two underage girls into prostitution.

Last Feb. 28, Basa, who appeared with her court-appointed counsel Pixley, pleaded guilty to a count charging her with sex trafficking of children.

Under the statute, that offense is punishable by at least 10 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment.

The original sentencing date was June 6, 2014.

According to the plea deal, from April 1, 2013, to July 16, 2013, Basa recruited, enticed, and harbored a 15-year-old girl to engage in commercial sex acts.

Using a cell phone, Basa arranged meetings with adult males and the girl, and then drove the girl to meeting sites for the purpose of having those men have sex with her.

Basa gave the girl condoms for those meetings. Basa received money and/or methamphetamine or “ice” from the men in exchange.

The indictment charged Basa and co-defendant Benavente for engaging in sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of two minors.

According to the indictment, Benavente, a firefighter, persuaded the two girls to have sex with him and recorded the incident using a cell phone. This allegedly happened twice.

The indictment alleged that on April 1, 2013, Basa recruited and enticed the two girls to engage in “commercial sex act.”

A Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent alleged that Benavente took videos of himself having sex with two 15-year-old girls. Basa allegedly offered the girls to the firefighter in exchange for methamphetamine or “ice” and an unspecified amount of money.

Benavente has already pleaded guilty. Roberto’s defense team called him at the trial as one of their nine witnesses.

SCHOOL DEMONSTRATION LANCE CPL. LUIS RAMIREZ

Marine 1st Lt. Daniel Novotny demonstrates a sweeping hip-throw on Marine Cpl. Raymond Perry during a school visit to Tinian Junior Senior High School. The Marines gave students a taste of Marine recruit training, taught them about different military occupational specialties, and introduced them to different military vehicles. The Marines are on Tinian as part of Valiant Shield 2014, a U.S.-only exercise integrating U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners.

Habitual offender gets 8 yrs. in prison for gas station robbery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio handed down yesterday an eight-year prison term against Christopher M. Igisomar, a habitual offender who, together with an accomplice, robbed the Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao.

Igisomar, 32, pleaded guilty to robbery as part of a plea deal. Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as his counsel.

Kim-Tenorio sentenced Igisomar to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for eight years, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Once he finishes his sentence, Igisomar will be placed on three years of probation. He was also required to perform 300 hours of community service, pay a $500 fine, plus court costs and probation fees.

Kim-Tenorio ordered Igisomar to pay full restitution to the cashier and the Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao in an amount to be determined later.

If the court later imposes restitution, Igisomar and co-defendant Joseph C. San Nicolas will be held jointly for the restitution.

The remaining charges of conspiracy to commit robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, theft, and disturbing the peace were dropped.

Igisomar and San Nicolas robbed the Mobil gas station in Chalan Piao on Feb. 8, 2014. Igisomar threatened the female cashier with a machete and demanded that she give him the money in the cash register.

San Nicolas held a rock to the gas attendant’s neck. The two defendants then stole the cashier’s purse and cash from the cash register.

San Nicolas confessed to police that he and Igisomar plotted to rob the gas station. He pleaded guilty and he will be sentenced on Oct. 17, 2014. He is facing another criminal case.

Last month, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho revoked Igisomar’s probation and imposed the rest of his original sentence—four years in prison—because of the filing of charges over the gas station robbery.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 2014 | FIESTA RESORT | CALL 233-REEF FOR TICKETS

Council still accepting noms for Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is continuing to solicit nominations for the 2014 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Preservation of CNMI History; and Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

THE 2013 awardees included Dr. Kurt Barnes, Research and Publication in the Humanities; Rosanna P. Barcinas, Preservation of CNMI History; Donald B. Mendiola and Bryan Manabat, Outstanding Humanities Teachers; and Professor Marjorie Driver, Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Ccouncil's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and are due no later than 4:30pm on Friday, Oct. 10.

Awards will be presented during a special ceremony to be held in late October.

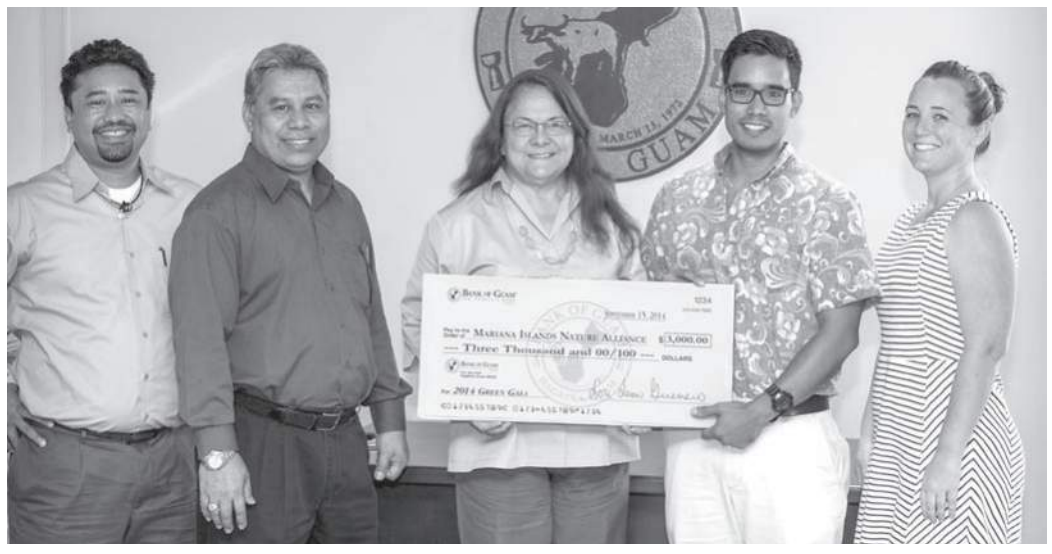
For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

Bank of Guam is a Green Gala Title Sponsor

In support of island conservation and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's ongoing work, Bank of Guam recently made a generous donation to MINA's upcoming event, The Green Gala. Their contribution of $3,000 adds them to the list of Title Sponsors for this annual fundraiser, which will be held Friday, Sept. 19, 2014.

"We really appreciate the support of Bank of Guam," said Frankie Eliptico, MINA's board chairman. "Bank of Guam's donation demonstrates their commitment to our organization and our work."

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's fragile environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening. ***(MINA)***



MINA accepts a $3,000 donation from Bank of Guam representatives. GREG MORETTI/MINA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Salvation Army sets Family Fun Fair

The Salvation Army will be launching its first annual event: Family Fun Fair on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, from 9am to 4pm, at the Hopwood Middle School Field. For businesses or community and organizations interested in opening a booth either for food or merchandise sales, or would like to perform at the event, the Salvation Army will be accepting applications. The application forms are available at the main office in Chalan Piao, south of the former MGM Garment Factory and across the Hopwood field. Deadline for applications will be on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2014. A meeting will be held at the Salvation Army Office in Chalan Piao on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 5pm to answer any questions. For more information, call 237-3542. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales LIVE show schedule

The John Gonzales LIVE show today will feature the topic "Oral Cancer - Non-Communicable Disease" and "Let's Move Marianas Expo 2014". The guest speakers are Commonwealth Cancer Association's Juan L. Babauta, some dentists, and a testimonial from a family member, Mami Ikeda,

The show airs live today, Sept. 17, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on TV Channel 14.

The show will be replayed on Monday, Sept. 22, and Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014. The show will also rebroadcast on www.betelnutradio.com.

To participate in the discussion or to advertise, contact via email: johngonzaleslive@gmail.com; call 287-9413; or text 285-META (6382). ***(PR)***

NMDC schedule of events

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. has scheduled the following events:

- NMDC general membership meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 17, starting at 6pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.
- NMDC-hosted Delegate Candidates' Forum on Friday, Sept. 26, starting at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.
- NMDC-hosted 1st Marianas Indigenous Conference on Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 29 and 30, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
- NMDC-hosted CNMI Gubernatorial Candidates Forum on Friday, Oct. 10, starting at 6pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

In line with the CNMI's Cultural Heritage Month and the vision and mission of the NMDC, the NMDC board urges the entire CNMI community and especially the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian people to participate in the meeting today and the events above. ***(NMDC)***

Military to conduct live ordnance exercise

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct a live ordnance exercise Sept. 17 from 6am to 9am. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay outside 10 nautical miles from 15°-16°N/146°-147°E during the times and date indicated. ***(PR)***

GPPC, INC. is looking for the following positions:

(15) CARPENTER
Rate: $5.60 to $ 7.50 per hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as a Carpenter. Knowledgeable on how to construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as, concrete forms, building frameworks, partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wood stairways, window, door frames and hardwood floors.

(15) MASON
Rate $5.60 to $7.50 per hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as a Mason. Able to smooth and finish poured concrete surface, such as, floors, walkways, tile settings, brick laying, sidewalks and roads or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Capable of aligning forms for sidewalks, curbs, and gutters; patch voids and use saws to cut expansion joints.

(10) ELECTRICIAN
Rate: $5.60 to $7.75 per hour
Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as an Electrician. Knowledgeable on how to install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring equipment and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes. Able to install or service street lights, intercom systems, or electrical control systems.

(4) SAFETY OFFICER
Rate: $5.60 - $7.50 per hour
Must be a high school graduate with a minimum of 2 years experience as Safety Officer. Collect data on work environments for analysis by occupational health and safety specialists. Implement and conduct evaluation programs designed to limit chemical, physical, biological, and ergonomic risks to workers. Verify availability or monitor use of safety equipment, such as hearing protection or respirator. Supply, operate, or maintain personal protective equipment. Evaluate situations or make determinations when a worker should not work on the grounds where danger or potential harm may exist. Do all related duties as assigned. Must be able to work on a flexible time.

(08) CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS
Rate: $6.75 - $8.50 per hour OR $1,300.00 - $2000.00 per month
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience as a Civil Engineering Technician with knowledge on how to apply Theory and Principles of Civil Engineering in planning, designing and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the directions of engineering staff or physical scientists.

(4) AUTOMOBILE ELECTRICIANS/ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDER
Rate: $5.60 - $7.50 per hour
At least 2 years' work-related experience. Must be able to diagnose and undertake electrical repairs on a wide variety of vehicles, heavy equipment and plant. Must be knowledgeable on electric motors, alternator, starter, and motor rewinding. Can perform his/her duties and responsibilities with less supervision.

(2) DIESEL FUEL INJECTION PUMP TECHNICIAN
Rate: $5.60 - $7.75 per hour
At least 2 years' work-related experience. Must be able to diagnose, service, repair and maintain fuel injection systems.
Knowledgeable on repairing diesel fuel injection components; including, pumps, injectors and turbochargers.

(01) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE
Rate: $5.60 - $6.25 per hour
Must be a college graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience. Knowledgeable on construction business. Preferably someone who can operate Microsoft Office & Power Point Programs. Must be able to work flexible hours.

(2) POWER CRANE OPERATOR
Rate: $5.60 to $7.50 per hour
High school graduate with a minimum of 2 years work related experience. Must be able to comply with all safety regulations and work with minimal supervision.

All positions must be able to work flexible work hours.

Closing date will be on September 24, 2014.
Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan, MP 96950. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing may be required.

GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

CUC-RFEOI-14-020
Request for Expressions of Interest for Vegetation Line Clearing Services
(A Non-Binding, Informal Market Survey)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, requests "Expressions of Interest" (EOI) from qualified firms capable of providing supervision, labor, equipment, traffic control, debris removal and incidentals necessary to perform tree and brush cutting and removal service on various utility rights-of-way and utility lines in the CUC service territory.

The Request for Expressions of Interest is an exploratory project in order to survey market interest in Vegetation Line Clearing Services. It is not intended to be a formal or informal procurement process and CUC does not express or imply that any future procurement and/or acquisition process will occur, or that any preference will be given to those replying.

The CUC invites qualified firms to express their interest in performing the needed services. CUC will review all Expressions of Interests received, and based in part on these submittals, will decide on whether to outsource the Vegetation Line Clearing Services to private firms.

The CUC-RFEOI-14-020 Package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested firm, by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:30 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Four (4) copies must be submitted by hand or courier in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFEOI-14-020" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 3, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 14, 2014**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 26, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Gary Camacho, Power Division T&D Manager via email address gary.camacho@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

Intensive search for BTS on Rota continues

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of yesterday, there has not been anything conclusive yet whether the brown tree snake captured on Sept. 3 on Rota was a stowaway or from a population of snakes on Rota, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sylvan Igisomar, coordinator and biologist for the CNMI BTS program.

"We have not gotten enough data to be conclusive. Right now we are still deploying traps and we are still searching nightly," Igisomar said.

According to him, night searches have gone from 7pm to 11pm since operations began, covering a majority of Rota's Songsong area, with traps monitored during daytime.

"We are saturating [the area], moving northward strategically, placing those traps in forested areas, residential areas as well," he said.

He said if the weather had permitted yesterday, 246 traps total would already be deployed on the island.

Initially, according to Igisomar, there were 46 traps on Rota, with an additional 200 provided by the U.S. Geological Survey in Guam.

A hundred of the additional traps were deployed last Friday, he said.

The CNMI BTS program has a total of nine personnel with Igisomar as its coordinator.

Staff has been rotating on and off island, with the USGS team doing the same, according to him.

They are four USGS biologists on Rota, with five from the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Igisomar called the first few weeks of operations the most intensive, as the setup phase of operations includes the four-hour mandatory night searches, along with trap monitoring, agency and manpower coordinating, report and press release writing as some of their efforts.

"Folks are working around the clock up there. We're trying to juggle those things…to find a balance so folks are getting enough rest," Igisomar said, who personally has been working 12- to 14-hour days.

"Hopefully by mid this week all the traps will be set up," he said noting that setup is where most of the manpower effort is.

He said the community response to their efforts on Rota has been "very good."

"They're concerned about their environment. We've been getting permission to setup traps and do searches around people's backyards," he said.

If a snake is found, he said it should be killed immediately; if not, people can notify the 28-SNAKE hotline as soon as possible.

He said "time is critical" in stifling a potential BTS problem on the islands.

"The brown tree snake is a very elusive animal and as we can see from what it's done to Guam, it's very destructive, so we ask the public, if you see one, kill it…try to separate the head from the body to make sure that it is dead, [or] crush its head. Because once it gets away, it's very difficult to find," he said.

AHEC DONATION NMC
The CNMI Area Health Education Center recently donated more than $4,000 worth of stethoscopes, ink toners, alcohol pads, ice bags, gloves, gauzes, hand sanitizers, sodium chloride, storage boxes and other office supplies, to NMC's Nursing Program. The Nursing Program at NMC is a two-year program that plays an essential role in training future nurses in the CNMI and in supporting the healthcare system.

Monetary reward for LOST PASSPORTS

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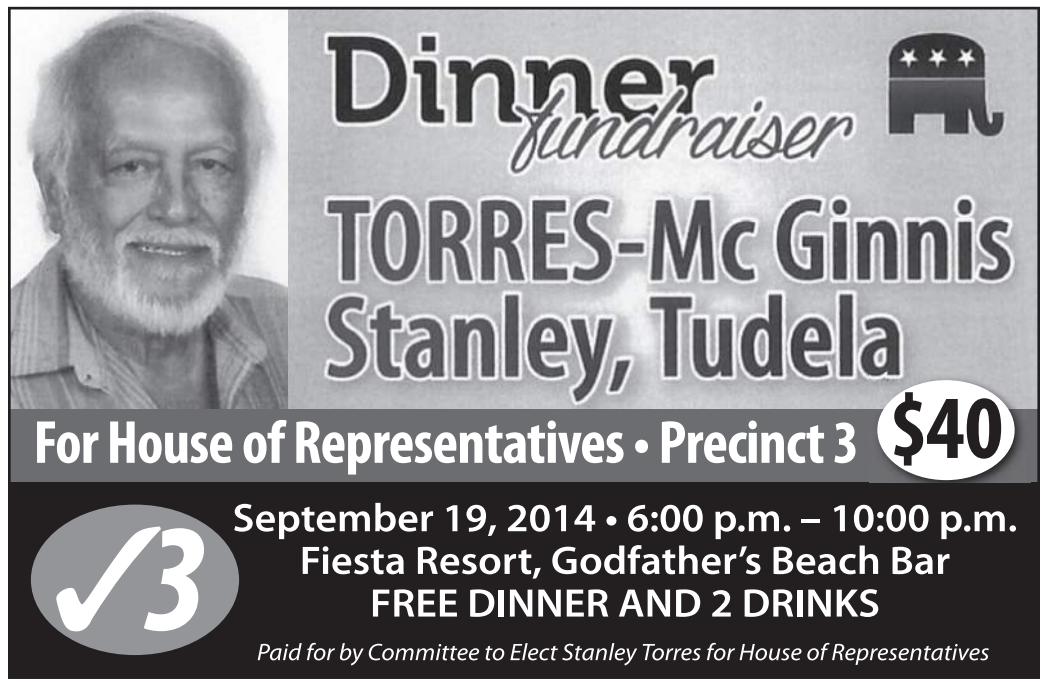
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DOJ awards Guam $622,594 in federal grants

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded Guam $622,594 in federal grant assistance.

The Office of the Attorney General was awarded $414,754 through the Office for Victims of Crime's fiscal year 2014 VOCA Victim Assistance program. This formula grant will help the Attorney General's Ofice respond to a wide variety of crimes and enhance services provided to victims on Guam.

The Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, Inc. was awarded $207,840 through the Office of Violence Against Women's Grants to State Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Coalitions Program. This grant will assist the coalition coordinate victim services and collaborate with federal and local entities to respond to violence against women issues.

"These funds will help improve public safety and provide much needed support to victims of crime on Guam," said Bordallo. "The grants are part of the DOJ's continued efforts to ensure that local law enforcement entities and community organizations are equipped to better serve their communities. I look forward to these grants benefitting our community." ***(PR)***

Club 200 to feature Spawnbreezie

Red Cross is proud to announce that Spawnbreezie will be a special guest performer at Club 200 on Oct. 4. The Red Cross is grateful to Spawnbreezie and to Salbahe Promotions for collaborating with Red Cross to help make our event extraordinary.

"Along with Davy G and other local Bands, Spawnbreezie will add some super exciting entertainment to our Club 200 this year," said Tayna Belyeu-Camacho.

The Red Cross relies on the generosity of businesses and individuals to support our humanitarian mission. For more information about the Club 200 and where to purchase tickets, contact the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Meetings of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday September 19, 2014 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend. The following is the proposed agenda:

I. Preliminary Matters
   a. Meeting Called to Order
   b. Determination of Quorum
   c. Public Comments
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Adoption of Minutes
IV. Electronic Gaming / Video Lottery
V. Executive Session
VI. Other Related Matters
VII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission at 664-2375.

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its **RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS** customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before **Monday, September 22**. Payments not received by close of business on **Sept 22** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Monday, September 22**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Monday, September 22**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Road, Chalan Laolao.

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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
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Tinian/Rota Office - up to 4:30pm
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

Rosie Castro is MEI's first scholarship recipient

The recipient of the first Marianas Eye Institute scholarship to attend Townshend International School in the Czech Republic has been awarded. Rosie Castro, daughter of Vince and Hilma Castro. Rosie Castro applied for the scholarship upon hearing about it in May.

Marianas Eye Institute's co-founder, Dr. David Khorram, started the scholarship after relocating his family to the Czech Republic earlier this year where his children are attending Townshend International School. Wanting to provide opportunities to the junior high and high school students of the Mariana Islands, Khorram earmarked funds to provide an opportunity for students.

Upon announcement of this scholarship program, several individuals expressed interest. Castro was the first to submit her application and send it to the Townshend International School.

Castro's father, Vince, was initially hesitant due to the distance and unknown aspects of having his only daughter attending school abroad, but reconsidered when he felt that God was opening doors that eased his concerns.

The Castro family is a very close family and they struggled with letting their 14-year-old daughter head off to a far away land without support. That is when Khorram and family came in and reassured them that Castro would be taken cared of in the warm and loving atmosphere of Townshend.

"We went through the same struggles a year ago when faced with the decision to send our daughter, Nava, who was then 15, to Townshend," explained Khorram. "But Nava quickly became part of a school community that allowed her to thrive. Townshend gave her the opportunity to grow and to learn tremendously."

Castro had been a classmate of one of the Khorram children and the families have known each other for years.

When asked how she felt about moving to Europe to go to school, Castro stated, "I am excited to have this opportunity. Saipan has been my whole world and to have a chance to go abroad and gain new experiences is a dream of mine."

Marianas Eye Institute CEO Russ Quinn said, "I've known Rosie for many years and she has matured into a smart young lady. I am happy that she is our first recipient. I know she will do well."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Eye Institute CEO Russ Quinn and Rosie Castro.

During her first weeks at Townshend, Castro missed her family and friends, but was in touch with them daily. She was also a bit surprised at how easy the transition has been. "Everyone here is so welcoming," said Castro. "It's amazing to meet so many nice people from around the world."

The school has made arrangements to help Castro, a devout Catholic, to attend Mass each week at the nearby centuries-old church.

Townshend International School is a co-educational nonprofit school, which for the past 22 years has welcomed students from 98 countries and territories. In addition to providing outstanding academics, the school places emphasis on character development, spiritual development, and in preparing young people to be of service to others and to contribute to social progress. The school serves children from pre-K through high school. Boarding students are welcome from 7th grade and older.

Townshend is located in a peaceful village overlooking the countryside of South Bohemia, in the Czech Republic, near the borders of Austria and Germany. The surrounding area is dotted with historic castles, lakes, rivers, and beautiful villages.

More information about Townshend International School is available at www.Townshend.cz. Though the funding is provided by Marinas Eye Institute, the scholarship program is administered directly by Townshend, and interested individuals should apply directly to the school admissions@townshend.cz. Once accepted, request financial assistance from the school, mentioning that you are interested in the Marianas Eye Institute scholarship. Students are accepted throughout the year.

Marianas Eye Institute, which is funding the scholarships, provides total eye care for the family, including one-hour glasses, contact lenses, medical eye care, advanced cataract surgery, diabetic eye care, and laser treatment. Marianas Eye Institute has been recognized by Retinal Physician Magazine as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia Pacific region."

Marianas Eye Institute is located on Beach Road Garapan, across 13 Fishermen's Monument. ***(MEI)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to our son, Eujavinel Jethanio Pinaula Repeki! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings coming out from Mommy, Daddy, your brothers Jacob, Marleon, and the whole family.

Rota Catholic school commemorates 9/11

Students may not remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the tragedy that reverberated throughout American society, forever changing security, travel, and the national identity.

Known as Patriot Day, it is observed on Sept. 11 in memory of the more than 3,000 people who lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

On the 13th anniversary of that day, Eskuelan San Francisco De Borja students talked and shared with their parents or relatives about their feelings for the event.

Do they understand the significance of the terrorist acts? Are we winning the war on terrorism? A collection of lessons, articles, and class discussions helped the students understand the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"I am proud of the students for honoring those who serve and remember this day for those who gave the greatest service and greatest sacrifice to citizens of our country on the anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001," said administrator-principal Carmen H. Atalig.

"To commemorate the anniversary of 9/11, ESFDB students held moments of silence after their morning rosary and wore patriotic colors such as red, white, and blue," said Social Studies teacher and board chair Edward Maratita Jr.

"It was an important day in our history. One that could never be forgotten," said eighth-grade student Tyra Reese Calvo.

Seventh-grade student Marjorie Banaag said, "Just by listening and learning about terrorism, it made me mad [while] at the same time happy. It made me mad because it created more airline restrictions but also, I was happy because it makes us safe when we travel."

"We are honoring our administrator/principals' son TJ H. Atalig, our teacher Mr. Ed [Maratita Jr.], and the sons and daughters of Rota who are serving in the armed forces," said seventh-grader Angelo Lucero.

"We are remembering those that did the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom," said another seventh-grader, Aneshia Reyes. "I am proud of my dad because he served in the military."

"Also, we should not only focus on 9/11 but also on the freedom that our troops give us every day," added fifth-grader Jeremy John Atalig. "I am proud of my uncle TJ [Atalig] and Mr. Ed for serving in the Army and protecting our freedom."

In observance of 9/11, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students of teachers Mary Rose Lucero and Maratita joined in a moment of silence and prayer at the San Francisco de Borja Church. ***(ESFDB)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixth to eighth grade students pose in front of Sainan Ina after praying to her for peace. The students display the U.S. flag to represent freedom.

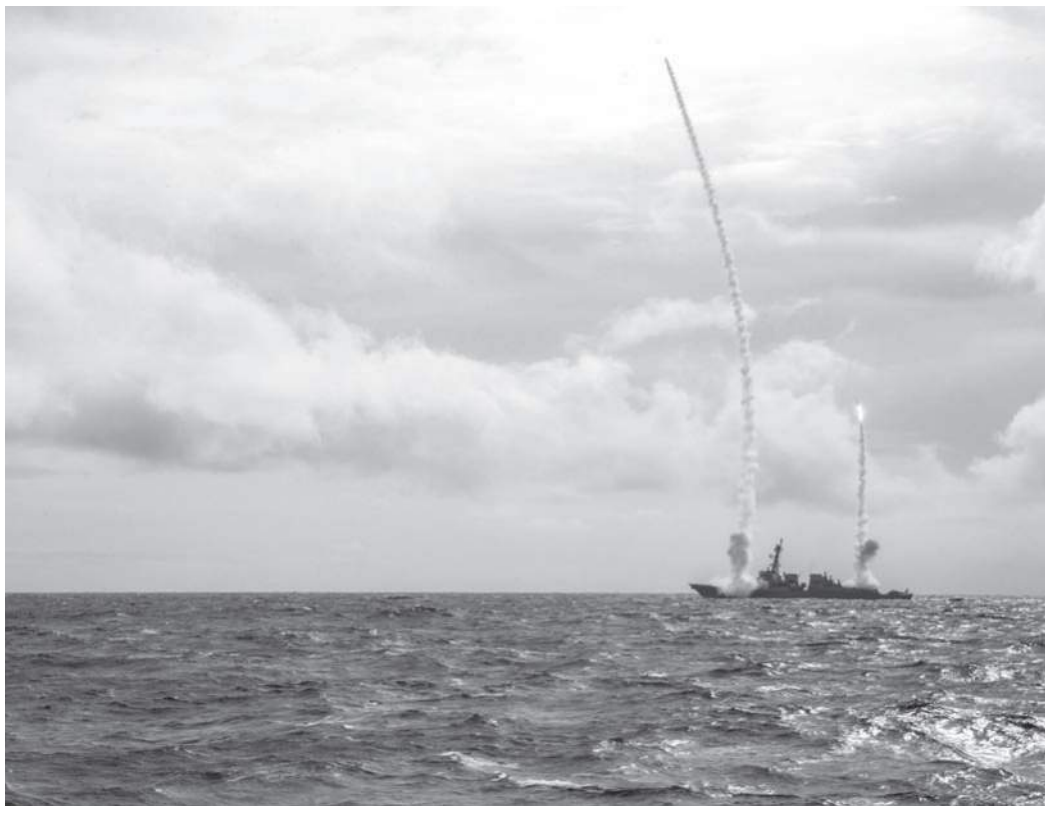
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sixth-graders Raimundo Manglona and Jeremy John Atalig II show their 9/11 ribbon in remembrance of the victims.

Valiant Shield 2014

LENA WAKAYAMA

U.S. Marine Corps FA-18C and FA-18D Hornets assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, park on Andersen Air Force Base flightline as Valiant Shield 2014 officially begins.



BEVERLY J. LESONIK

The Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS *Mustin* fires two SM-2 missiles during a sinking exercise as part of Valiant Shield 2014.

ABBEY PERRIA

Aircraft ordnance technicians from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533, currently assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Group, load a missile onto an FA-18C Hornet on the opening day of the exercise Valiant Shield 2014.

LENA WAKAYAMA

A U.S. Air Force KC-10 Extender air refueling aircraft with the 305th Air Mobility Wing, Air Mobility Command, speeds down the Andersen Air Force Base flightline as Valiant Shield begins.

ALONZO M. ARCHER

The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS *Stethem* fires a HARPOON missile during a sinking exercise during Valiant Shield 2014.

KEVIN V. CUNNINGHAM

A HARPOON missile is launched from the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS *Shiloh* during Valiant Shield 2014.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Obama's war plan sends wrong message to our enemies

Critics looking for more reasons to pound President Barack Obama probably found ample fodder in his speech last week outlining a strategy to confront the Islamic State threat in Syria and Iraq. Americans are losing patience with a reluctant warrior in the White House at a time when even he says the danger is clear and present.

All commanders in chief face a constant balancing act between prudence and bold demonstrations of American military might. Obama stated what all of us see: Islamic State terrorists are coercing others to join the militants' ranks or die. They must be stopped.

Obama pledges to follow these terrorists to the ends of the Earth _ but signals that they needn't fear confrontation with U.S. ground forces. Direct U.S. military involvement is limited to airstrikes.

We know from the past decade of war that overextension and miscalculation can lead to disastrous consequences. So, yes, presidential caution is justified when committing this nation to yet another Middle Eastern entanglement.

Conversely, we see from the Islamic State's sweep across Iraq and Syria that too much caution also has consequences. We long ago took issue with Obama's failure to help when moderate rebel forces still were competing against Islamic State radicals for battlefield dominance in Syria. Only now, as the radicals sweep across Iraq, is Obama getting serious about providing training and equipment to the depleted ranks of moderates still fighting.

We hope that Obama's speech marks a turning point. He now must match words with actions to eradicate the Islamic State "cancer."

Retired Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni, former head of the U.S. Central Command, warned years before the 2003 Iraq invasion that presidents must outline a clear strategy and be prepared for unforeseen consequences. We asked him this week to assess Obama's approach.

Zinni, a harsh critic of the Bush administration's planning for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, shows no signs of going easy on Obama either. The president should never have broadcast to the enemy that U.S. ground troops aren't coming, he says.

Obama's plan also fails to identify who's leading on the ground, Zinni warns. Will we leave combat leadership to ragtag Syrian rebels and an Iraqi military command that runs at the first sign of danger?

Too many times, American leaders have promised victory but left unvanquished enemies to fight another day.

If Obama can accomplish this mission with a limited U.S. commitment, he deserves the full support of Congress and the public. But many Americans feel they've been fooled once, twice and thrice before. They're in no mood to be fooled again.

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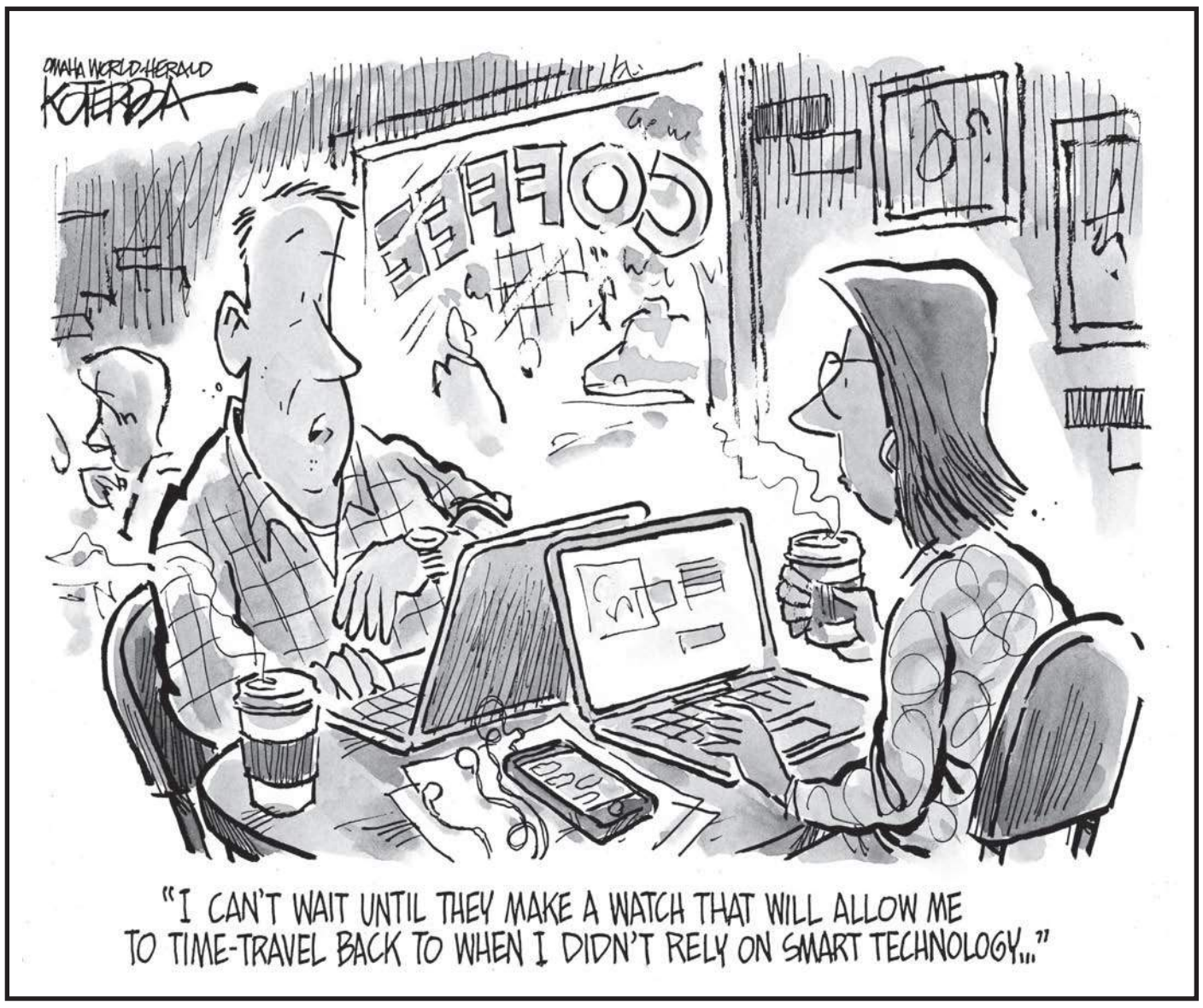
OMAHA WORLD-HERALD
KOTERBA
"I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THEY MAKE A WATCH THAT WILL ALLOW ME TO TIME-TRAVEL BACK TO WHEN I DIDN'T RELY ON SMART TECHNOLOGY..."

Speaking in tongues

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

Pimsleur's work on language learning is popular. The Internet come-on is "Learn a new language in 10 days without a book or CDs." The winsome smile of the lady promoting the website caught my attention, and though I was only methodologically curious (of course), I found out what I already knew in years of pedagogy; one relies on the way students naturally learn their native tongue as a child: *listen* and *repeat.*

In the years I taught oral English to students at the Shenyang Aerospace U and tutored children at the Shou Wang weekend school, the only Chinese words I used were *ting* (listen) and *chongfu* (repeat).

Ting denotes paying attention. There are three major groups of strokes. The first one on the left is the "ear" with an emphasis on it being huge (open wide) written below it. The second is the "eyes" so that listening involves viewing and watching with intensity, occupying the top right quadrant. The third brushed below the "eyes" is the "heart," indicating heartfelt engagement. It makes the one word with many strokes equivalent to "active listening" in English.

Just this one word had enormous implication in the conduct of my classroom. It required students of their own volition to be at full attention all the time since not doing so would be obvious. Normal classrooms had teachers equipped with mini-microphones and portable speakers so that ze voice was amplified throughout the room. In lecture halls, the rooms were equipped with sound systems enhancing the popular PowerPoint presentation; lectures were conducted with the lights dimmed save the one by the green board with the front row appearing to listen in earnest while the rest of the class fingered smartphones, or caught up with their z-z-z-z-s.

My class architecture was designed so there was no escape from the neighbor. In my third year, when classes had over 30 students, they had two sessions per week so I split them into two, each alternately attending a session and skipping the other. I assigned them seats, my normal way of learning to identify each person by their birth names rather than the "English" ones they chose in other English classes for the convenience of the foreign teacher.

Assigned seats broke up roommates who tended to stick together; it also broadened student's circle of co-learners. I had them work in small groups with people they did not normally associate with. It also worked to their advantage since they were assigned work outside the class, encouraged to "each one teach two" (E1T2) as learning is best accomplished when one taught what one learned.

Seating arrangements silenced the loquacious and engaged the shy, in two rows of semi-circles if the class numbered more than 30. Smaller classes were in one row around the room, cozy since no one looked at anyone's back!

In the center of the room was a table covered with a kerchief (a simple black and white *a la* Palestinian headgear) with a hankie centerpiece holding a broken cup and spilled uncooked rice, local stones from the schoolyard and one or two gems from my collection. (Students invariably asked what the decor "meant.") Throughout the two-period session (with a break) I walked around the center table so there was no defined front of the room. When someone was called to speak, ze spoke directly to the whole class using "public" voice.

The students talked, though reluctant at first. They were asked to leave their "faces" outside the door. This was hard for many who were used to be backbench warmers in a hide-and-seek game. They were in a speaking class and if they had to worry about "face," they would not open their mouths. There was no place to hide. Read and write, they did not hesitate, but speaking of their sense experience, personal feelings, thoughts and deeds was "private," not in their normal comfort zone.

They listened to the teacher, classmates, and to their own voices. I had them repeat *(chongfu)* what they heard so that they can hear themselves and get comfortable with their own sound in English. We got them to repeat familiar ads and public signage, and sang popular English songs. I got them to talk about themselves by identifying parts of their bodies that included words they were not too familiar with like *forehead, cheeks, chin, chest, hip, thigh, calf, shin, etc.* Varied games to do this were designed. They learned.

"Listen and repeat" started babies' natural learning of any language. The method worked in the classroom, too. (Unfortunately, the passing of test is still the mode of learning in China). In class, I described what I saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched as an invitation for students to do likewise in their assigned groups. A comfort level was in place because they talked of what they already knew without reading a book, to persons they are familiar with. There were no right or wrong answers. There was only the courage to speak.

My students and I worked doubly hard, first on the courage, then they spoke!

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CUC's dual paralysis!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

CUC is financially paralyzed while forcibly inhaling fire from EPA for failing to fulfill federal court stipulated orders on an unfinished oil pipeline and fuel tank.

Its inability to meet federal stipulated orders confirms it's ill equipped with the technical and fiscal competence to get the job done. EPA is back, seeking for receivership and must wonder as to gold-plated pipeline cost.

CUC boss Alan Fletcher and cabal must retract into their hermit crab shells to think through how all hell broke loose! He's taken the agency from incompetence to fiscal paralysis. This setback has metastasized into every corner of the utility agency it's hard to tell whether it's coming or going.

Would it slide into a politically motivated scheme? Would the unintended consequences result in higher power rates given CUC's technical deficit and managerial incompetency?

It must now focus its attention paying obligations (if the NMI government pays its debt) or even ensure the sputtering power generation doesn't turn into persistent brownouts. Has everybody noticed that outages are already occurring more and more often?

The last improvement to the old power system was about six to eight years ago when I availed, through MPLT, $3.5 million to upgrade the 36-year-old generators. This succeeded and thus we averted unsolicited brownouts. But nothing has happened since then.

The old diesel plant has seen steady deterioration and is once again facing hard maintenance issues, including timely repair of its distribution system should perchance a super storm visit us. This has been put off indefinitely.

It's one problematic issue after another, all needing money to which there's hardly any. We could also smell a rat: CUC wants to retain use of its dilapidated diesel engines, thus the decision to limit renewable energy below 40 MW. Doesn't make sense at all now, does it?

The 10MW solar proposal hasn't gotten anywhere in nearly three years, nor has CUC seen fit to call for a rebid given the sizeable decrease of cost for solar PV as a result of advances in technology. In addition, the company reserves another four years to build it out while a plant of this size could be completed within six to eight months. Why six to eight years versus six to eight months, realistically?

Obviously, there should be the question on whether the size (10 to 40MW) is financially viable. Is there any decent return on investment mirrored against lacking utility-of-scale once again and while the grid requires upgrade no matter what? Didn't a recent DNV study cap the influx of renewable into the Saipan grid at 8MW? What's the use of that study if CUC forges ahead to asking for more MWs that the grid apparently cannot handle at its current stage? Or was that grid study another waste of time and grant money?

None of it gets ever discussed publicly, specifically who pays for power grid hook-up or backup systems? The muted discussion is understandable: it would cost some $18 million and $35 million each, respectively. Who pays for it? Therein lies the rather highly muted discussion, much like those surrounding the casino deal.

Now it blames the contractor for delays in the federal stipulated order. Fine! But isn't CUC still in charge of the mess? Eh, using the mirror on the wall doesn't work either!

CUC can't fork out any amount to facilitate the project moving forward. Not only is it bankrupt, it also has a history of not paying its bills with vendors on time. Both the CNMI government and utility are broke and without any credit standing. Political leadership doesn't seem to understand the difficulty to finance anything here instead of asking Best Sunshine at every turn to loosen up more cash, in the process giving up further control of our islands.

The Department of the Interior has retained an engineering firm to help CUC establish an IRP (integrated resource plan)—essentially a roadmap to resolve the lingering and disorienting power situation in the NMI. All the while CUC doesn't have the competence or fiscal wherewithal to do anything with common decency, so it's little surprise for yet another federal agency having to step in.

By calendar yearend, recommendations for the IRP should lead to some concrete plans including selection of most suitable renewable energy sources and their anticipated penetration into the CNMI grid, ultimately affording it to get out of fossil fuel dependency.

Wow, undoubtedly this will result in some form of shake-up of the leadership via the local oil lobby. Already rumors abound of politically motivated power related "October Surprise" or an announcement by the current administration via CUC and to forge ahead with yet another renewable energy mirage. Obviously, it seems a work in progress to ignore the upcoming IRP results as this would fall outside the all-prevailing election efforts. It would once again reflect in half-baked and unsubstantiated procurement efforts, joining the past and sad track record of leading nowhere.

But be cautious of OIA's reaction to any such in-your-face ignorance. With election around the corner, these kinds of endeavors by the CUC, at this late hour and in light of the impending receivership, would further contribute to overload of their limited capabilities, plainly resulting in more taxpayer dollars wasted. Justifying CUC's existence goes to show its proclivity piling one incompetency after another. The feds are loaded with resources. CUC is bankrupt!

Hopes for reduced power rates are once again dashed by ignorance, fiscal paralysis, and incompetency. It could try braving a useless Trojan horse, playing only further into the diesel reliance. It would come out swinging that it has a plan to lower power rates. Oh? What has it been doing over the last 10 years? The Trojan horse needs to be sent out to sawdust pasture where it could be used as BBQ wood, pigpen, or chicken coop!

There is no good reason for Scottish independence

By BRENDAN SIMMS and JASON PACK
Los Angeles Times

Brendan Simms is a professor of history at Cambridge University, chairman of the Project for Democratic Union and author of Europe: The Struggle for Supremacy, 1453 to the Present. *Jason Pack is a researcher of world history at Cambridge University and president of Libya-Analysis.com. They wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

The gravest immediate threat to the West's long-term security does not emanate from Vladimir Putin or from the militants of the Islamic State. Rather, surprisingly, it comes from peace-loving Scots.

With polls now showing a majority of Scots supporting independence in the referendum set for Sept. 18, it's suddenly clear that Scotland might actually break away from Britain. In the words of Lord West of Spithead, former First Sea Lord, "A 'yes' vote for Scottish independence would make it more difficult to defend Britain. It would diminish NATO and the West's ability to do things."

Bluntly put, there is no rational upside for a 'yes' vote. In Scotland, the independence campaign runs on emotions alone. Abroad, its supporters are the postcolonial left who will revel in Britain's resultant weakness. Independence may increase Scotland's national pride, but its economy will suffer as companies and jobs flee south amid uncertainties about currency and taxation.

There will be no political dividend either. Unlike the "Irish problem" of the 20th century, the Scottish question is not a running sore in European or transatlantic politics. It does not involve a serious terrorist threat, nor would independence eliminate a destabilizing political movement—as would Corsican independence from France or Basque independence from Spain.

Simply put, Scottish independence is a solution in search of a problem. It would unwittingly destroy history's most successful political merger, the Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707, which enabled Britain to punch above its weight in the world, served as a model for the United States Constitution, and provided a dynamic core for a fiscal-military state that defeated its illiberal and undemocratic opponents in World War I, World War II and the Cold War.

Scottish independence would seriously weaken Britain as America's most important ally and as one of the key pillars of the Western world's security posture in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. An op-ed in the Guardian recently suggested that Britain without Scotland would be able to reduce its defense spending. But security is a positive-sum game. We are all safer when we work together and less safe when we compete or duplicate one another's efforts. In reality, a geographically reduced Britain will have to spend more to defend less favorable borders.

England's northern flank would be exposed for the first time in 300 years. All planning against possible Russian encroachments will have to be rethought. Both Scotland and what remains of Britain would henceforth become more reliant on the U.S. for their security and, therefore, less able to chart their own way in the world. Most vitally of all, the Scottish nationalists have announced that Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, based on the west coast of Scotland, would have to be immediately moved, at an estimated cost of $8 billion. While Britain is struggling to recalibrate its defense posture amid such dislocations, Russia or the militant group Islamic State might seize the moment to further test Western resolve.

Scottish independence will inevitably cause headaches in continental Europe. It will open the floodgates for invigorated separatist demands from Catalonia and the Basques in Spain, the Northern League and South Tyroleans in Italy, and others. All this should be deeply worrying for the United States, which needs stable partners in London and Brussels capable of deterring Russian President Putin and (ideally) supporting the United States in other theaters as well.

Scottish nationalists naively seem to think global security will no longer be their concern. But leaving Britain will not mean that Scotland has changed neighborhoods. Scots may be able to opt out of foreign adventures in the Middle East, but since Russia's annexation of Crimea, Europe is once more a dangerous place. Will the newly independent Scots choose to move their country west toward Greenland? If not, who will protect Scottish natural resources against the kind of Russian encroachment that Norway routinely experiences?

There is thus a pervasive irony about Scots voluntarily breaking up a union designed in the 18th century to pool resources against foreign threats and thereby pitching themselves into a 21st century Europe that is at its peak of post-WWII instability. Independent Scotland might find it difficult to survive alone in such an environment. The only realistic "European" alternative would then be for Edinburgh to embrace the movement for deeper political, economic and military integration of the Eurozone. In that event, though, Scotland would own Europe's problems—the sovereign debt crises, immigration issues, the Russian threat and all. Moreover, its isolationist citizens would have to pay for profligate southerners. The supreme irony is that if the Scots vote for independence they may actually end up losing sovereignty over their own affairs.

Of course, neither Britain nor the world will go under if the Scots vote "yes" on Sept. 18. Even if copycat independence movements later detached Wales or Northern Ireland, England would always remain a power of enormous economic heft, military capability and cultural attraction. Still, England would be weakened by the destruction of the union—less able to act as a key U.S. ally and the main bridging power between the Atlantic and European systems. That would be a sorry day for all who value democracy, human liberty, economic freedom and the cradle of liberal Western civilization.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼81
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲59	▼49
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲97	▼76
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼61
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Pusan	Cloudy	▲76	▼65
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼63
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼56
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼58
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼55
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼59

Yesterday's Satellite Image

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches east-southeastward from near Luzon through 15N130E and a broad circulation centered southeast of Guam near 11N147E to end northwest of Enewetak atoll at 12N160E. Divergent upper-level winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near these features east of the Mariana Islands and north of Chuuk within 230 miles of a line from 19N150E to 9N154E. Similar conditions are also found south of the circulation between 1N and 9N from 142E to 149E. Isolated thunderstorms are seen over the Mariana Islands between 11N and 17N from 142E to 146E. Converging surface winds are causing scattered showers south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 4N from 152E to 158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
4:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:09 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:12 AM	1:19 PM
Thursday	1:02 AM	2:05 PM
Friday	1:51 AM	2:49 PM
Saturday	2:39 AM	3:30 PM
Sunday	3:27 AM	4:11 PM

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Business

A Scottish 'Yes' also means exit from EU, NATO

BRUSSELS (AP)—If Scottish voters this week say Yes to independence, not only will they tear up the map of Great Britain, they'll shake the twin pillars of Western Europe's postwar prosperity and security—the European Union and the U.S.-led NATO defense alliance.

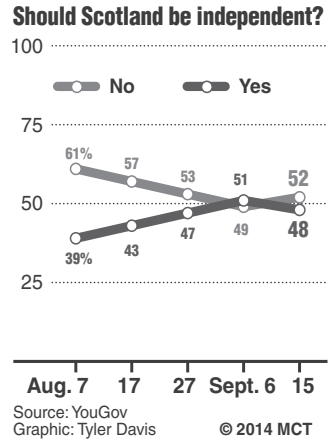
In breaking away from the rest of the United Kingdom, Scotland would automatically find itself outside both the EU and NATO, and have to reapply to join both, officials from those Brussels-based organizations have stressed.

For the EU especially, Scottish re-entry could be a long and arduous process, with other countries dead set against letting the Scots retain the privileges awarded Britain: the so-called opt-outs from being required to use the euro single currency and to join the multination Schengen zone where internal border controls have been scrapped.

For NATO's admirals and generals, the current Scottish government's insistence on a sovereign Scotland becoming free of nuclear weapons would pose enormous strategic and operational headaches, even if a transitional grace period were agreed on. A new home port would have to be found for the Royal Navy's four Trident missile-carrying submarines and their thermonuclear warheads, currently based on the Clyde.

This "risks undermining the collective defense and deterrence of NATO allies," Britain's Ministry of Defense has said. In what might be read as a warning to the Scots, the ministry has said a nuclear-free stance could constitute a "significant" hurdle to Scotland being allowed back into NATO.

Until Scotland rejoined the alliance, to which it's belonged with the rest of Britain for 65 years, new arrangements would also need to be found to patrol vital shipping routes in the North Atlantic and North Sea. If Scotland were to choose not to rejoin, it would pose a conundrum for NATO for which there is no real precedent: what to do following the loss of a developed, democratically governed part of alliance territory that has opted for neutrality, said Daniel Troup, research analyst at the NATO Council of Canada.



Asked how NATO would react to secession, alliance secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen told The Associated Press that "should the Scottish people vote in favor of independence and should they decide to seek membership in NATO, in that case, such an application will be addressed like other applications and eventually it will need consensus, that is, unanimity among NATO allies to accept a new member of our alliance."

Rasmussen refused to say Monday what the military consequences of Scotland's independence might be for the alliance, saying, "I'm not going to interfere with the Scottish debate, and it is a hypothetical question at this stage, because we don't know the outcome of the referendum."

Emergence of a new Western European country of 5 million inhabitants with roughly the land area of the Czech Republic or the U.S. state of Maine or would also set in motion political and social forces whose effects are impossible to predict. Because of British voting patterns, the political groups in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are seeking Britain's exit from the European Union would become proportionately stronger in Parliament.

GM expert says 19 deaths eligible for compensation

DETROIT (AP)—The death toll tied to faulty ignition switches in General Motors small cars has risen to 19, according to a compensation expert hired by the company. The number is likely to go higher.

Feinberg

Kenneth Feinberg said Monday that he has determined that 19 wrongful death claims are eligible for payments from GM. General Motors' estimate of deaths has stood at 13 for months, although the automaker acknowledged the possibility of a higher count.

Feinberg received 125 death claims due to the faulty switches in older-model small cars such as the Chevrolet Cobalt. The rest remain under review or require further documentation, he said in a report issued Monday.

"The public report is simply reporting on those eligible to date," Feinberg spokeswoman Camille Biros said in an email. "There will certainly be others."

GM has admitted knowing about the ignition switch problem for more than a decade. Yet it didn't begin recalling the switches in 2.6 million small cars until earlier this year. The automaker hired Feinberg to compensate victims of crashes caused by the switches, and Feinberg has said GM has not limited the total amount he can pay. Some lawmakers have estimated the death toll is close to 100.

Biros, citing confidentiality agreements, said Feinberg will not identify any of those eligible for payments, nor will he say if the 19 deemed eligible so far include the 13 deaths that GM has documented. GM has not identified the 13 victims. The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it has not tallied the total number of deaths.

Biros said no claims have been rejected yet, although Feinberg is in the process of turning down a few because they don't meet the requirements for compensation. Feinberg will issue reports each Monday on how many claims have been granted, she said.

Apple: Record 4M orders of iPhones on 1st day

AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, file photo, the iPhone 6, at left, and iPhone 6 plus are shown next to each other during a new product release in Cupertino, Calif.

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple had more than 4 million advance orders of its new, larger iPhones in the first 24 hours, exceeding its initial supply, the company said Monday.

The iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus will be delivered to customers starting Friday and throughout September, but many won't be delivered until October, Apple said. Phones will still be available Friday on a walk-in basis at Apple retail stores and from various wireless carriers and authorized Apple resellers.

Apple's website had intermittent outages last Friday because of heavy traffic as orders began online. The company said the 4 million orders set a new 24-hour record, beating the 2 million orders in 2012. That was for the iPhone 5, the previous time Apple increased the iPhone's screen size.

Last year, Apple sold 9 million iPhone 5s and iPhone 5c phones in the first three days they were on sale, but the company didn't say how many came in the first 24 hours of advance orders.

The iPhone 5, 5s and 5c have screens measuring 4 inches diagonally. The iPhone 6 is 4.7 inches, and the iPhone 6 Plus is 5.5 inches.

Besides larger screens, the new phones announced last week offer faster performance and a wireless chip for making credit card payments at retail stores by holding the phone near the payment terminal. The phones start at $199 with a two-year service contact.

The new phones will initially be available in the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Puerto Rico, Singapore and the U.K. Availability will expand to more than 20 additional countries a week later.

A free update to Apple's iOS software for mobile devices will be available to existing users on Wednesday. The new phones will come with the update, known as iOS 8.

Apple's stock rose 30 cents to $101.96 in midday trading Monday.

United offers up to $100K if workers leave

DALLAS (AP)—United Airlines reached a deal with the flight attendants' union to offer up to $100,000 in severance for workers who leave the company.

United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said Monday that the airline hopes that at least 2,100 of its 23,000 flight attendants will accept.

The airline also said that it would recall about 1,450 furloughed flight attendants to fill jobs in places where United is understaffed.

The company, formed by a 2010 merger, has seen growth on what used to be Continental Airlines, which hired 485 flight attendants last year. But the old United operation has been shrinking and furloughing flight attendants. The cabin crews still fly separately because the company has not reached a single contract that covers both groups.

Airlines and other companies use early-out bonuses to entice employees—especially senior, more expensive ones—to leave and be replaced by entry-level workers.

United Continental Holdings Inc. did not say how much the severance payments would cost. Last year, the company said it spent about $64 million on early-out payments to 1,200 ground workers and pilots.

The Association of Flight Attendants said that the early-out payments announced Monday would let some people pursue other endeavors and give those who remain a chance to move up the seniority ladder.

Chicago-based United, the nation's second-biggest airline operator behind American Airlines Group Inc., has been shrinking slightly—about 3 percent in passenger-carrying capacity since 2011, not counting United Express flights. United announced last year that it planned to cut spending by $2 billion per year to boost earnings. Operating expenses were $37 billion last year.

The company's shares fell 85 cents to close at $49.56 and were down another 40 cents in after-hours trading. They were still up 31 percent for the year at the closing bell.

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,031.14	1,984.13	4,518.90
+43.63	-1.41	-48.70
0.26%	-0.07%	-1.07%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1103	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7511	Philippine Peso	44.375
British Pound	0.6167	Indian Rupee	61.1025	Singapore Dollar	1.264
Canadian Dollar	1.1067	Indonesian Rupiah	11956	South Korean Won	1037.06
Chinese Yuan	6.1527	Japanese Yen	107.265	Swiss Franc	0.9357
Euro	0.773	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2314	Taiwan Dollar	30.1445
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2248	Thailand Baht	32.273

Nation

US to assign 3,000 from US military to fight Ebola

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is ramping up its response to West Africa's Ebola crisis, preparing to assign 3,000 U.S. military personnel to the afflicted region to supply medical and logistical support to overwhelmed local health care systems and to boost the number of beds needed to isolate and treat victims of the epidemic.

President Barack Obama planned to announce the stepped up effort Tuesday during a visit to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta amid alarm that the outbreak could spread and that the deadly virus could mutate into a more easily transmitted disease.

The new U.S. muscle comes after appeals from the region and from aid organizations for a heightened U.S. role in combatting the outbreak blamed for more than 2,200 deaths.

Administration officials said Monday that the new initiatives aim to:

■ Train as many as 500 health care workers a week.

■ Erect 17 heath care facilities in the region of 100 beds each.

■ Set up a joint command headquartered in Monrovia, Liberia, to coordinate between U.S. and international relief efforts.

■ Provide home health care kits to hundreds of thousands of households, including 50,000 that the U.S. Agency for International Development will deliver to Liberia this week.

■ Carry out a home- and community-based campaign to train local populations on how to handle exposed patients.

The officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the plans ahead of Obama's announcement, said the cost of the effort would come from $500 million in overseas contingency operations, such as the war in Afghanistan, that the Pentagon already has asked Congress to redirect to carry out humanitarian efforts in Iraq and in West Africa.

The officials said it would take about two weeks to get U.S. forces on the ground.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations African affairs subcommittee, applauded the new U.S. commitment. Coons earlier had called for the Obama administration to step up its role in West Africa.

"This humanitarian intervention should serve as a firewall against a global security crisis that has the potential to reach American soil," he said.

Hardest hit by the outbreak are Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The virus also has reached Nigeria and Senegal. Ebola is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of sick patients, making doctors and nurses especially vulnerable to contracting the virus that has no vaccine or approved treatment.

The U.S. effort will include medics and corpsmen for treatment and training, engineers to help erect the treatment facilities and specialists in logistics to assist in patient transportation.

Obama's trip to the CDC comes a day after the United States also demanded a stepped-up international response to the outbreak. The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, on Monday called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council on Thursday, warning that the potential risk of the virus could "set the countries of West Africa back a generation."

MEDAL OF HONOR AP

President Barack Obama applauds at right after presenting the Medal of Honor for Army Spc. Donald P. Sloat to his brother William Sloat, left, in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Sept. 15, 2014. Donald P. Sloat of Coweta, Okla., was killed in action on Jan. 17, 1970, at age 20. While on patrol, a soldier in his squad triggered a hand grenade trap that had been placed in their path by enemy forces. According to the White House, Sloat picked up the live grenade, initially to throw it away. When he realized it was about to detonate, he shielded the blast with his own body in order to save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

ACROSS THE NATION

Escaped school shooter had pitchfork, patrol says

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The school shooter who briefly escaped from an Ohio prison last week had a pitchfork when he was captured, the state patrol said Monday as newly released records added to the picture of an inmate frequently in trouble behind bars. T.J. Lane, convicted of killing three students at Chardon High School in the Cleveland area in 2012, did not threaten officers with the pitchfork, and it isn't known where he got it from, said patrol Lt. Craig Cvetan. New discipline records released Monday by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction show that Lane argued with instructors in education courses at Allen Correctional Institution, was found with marijuana in his system, gave himself three tattoos in violation of prison rules and worked out in a weight room despite a direct order not to.

Victim's family praying for girl in range accident

PHOENIX (AP)—The family of an Arizona shooting-range instructor who was accidentally shot and killed by a 9-year-old girl with an Uzi say they're praying for her. Lawyers for the family of 39-year-old Charles Vacca delivered a video message last week to the girl's family. "You're only 9 years old. We think about you, we are worried about you, we pray for you and we wish you peace. Our dad would want the same thing," one of Vacca's four children said in the video, according to The Arizona Republic. d by the tragedy that occurred Aug. 25 on a brief excursion during a vacation.

3 dead in Corpus Christi trailer park shooting

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)—A 63-year-old man was arrested after three people were killed and a child injured in a shooting at a trailer park in South Texas, according to police. Sammuel Everett Toomey is charged with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was being held at the Nueces County jail on $3.1 million bond. Toomey made a brief court appearance Monday and was assigned a court-appointed attorney. He had heavy bruising and abrasions to his face. Corpus Christi police said Toomey was injured when he struggled with officers during his arrest. Police said when officers arrived at the trailer park Sunday evening, they found three victims outside different residences.

Northern California wildfire burns 100 homes

WEED, Calif. (AP)—A fire driven by fierce winds raced through a small town near the Oregon border on Monday, burning a church to the ground, damaging or destroying 100 homes and prompting evacuation orders for at least 1,500 people, authorities said.

This tiny town near the base of Mount Shasta in the Cascade Mountains was under siege from a 350-acre blaze that surged toward and through it through timberland.

The town sawmill caught fire, and a Catholic church was destroyed.

The blaze erupted at around 1:30 p.m. south of Weed, a scenic town of nearly 3,000 located about 50 miles south of the Oregon border and about half way between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

"It was fast-moving, fanned by incredibly gusty winds of up to 40 mph," state fire spokesman Daniel Berlant. "It went into and around the town."

Blowing embers started spot fires as much as a half-mile ahead of the fire front, and evacuations were called for Weed and the outskirt subdivisions of Carrick and Lake Shastina, authorities said.

About 1,500 to 2,000 people were ordered to evacuate, said Allison Giannini, spokeswoman for the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Department.

More than 800 firefighters, aided by aircraft, fought the flames.

The winds began to ease late in the day, and the fire's pace slowed. By dusk it was 15 percent contained but still advancing, state fire spokeswoman Susie Brady said.

"We're hoping that the winds are going to calm down tonight," she said.

The fire started east of town and mowed through the area.

"Black land. Very flat. A lot of trees burned, a lot of sad, scared folks," Brady said.

Interstate 5, the main freeway between California and Oregon, was closed in the area.

Smoking rates on the rise in New York City

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time in years, more than 1 million New Yorkers are smoking, according to data released Monday, marking a disturbing rise of tobacco use in the city that pioneered a number of anti-smoking initiatives that were emulated nationally.

Sixteen percent of adult New Yorkers smoked in 2013, up from 14 percent in 2010, which was the city's lowest recorded rate, according to the findings released by New York City's Department of Health.

Paula Halton, smoking a cigarette outside a Manhattan building on Monday, found it hard to believe there had been an increase in the numbers of smokers.

"I feel definitely like a minority compared to what it used to be," the 39-year-old Brooklyn resident said. "I can't imagine an adult picking up smoking now."

The rise in 2013, which is the most recent data available, is striking since it comes as smoking rates fall across the country. However, the national average—18 percent—is still higher than it is in New York.

The findings were culled from answers to the department's annual health survey of thousands city residents.

"We've had a plateau in the smoking rate for a couple of years, but now it is a statistically significant increase," said Dr. Mary Bassett, the city's health commissioner. "We now know the rise is real and we aim to do something about it."

Under Michael Bloomberg, who served 12 years as mayor beginning in 2002, New York radically reshaped its plans to curb smoking among its residents. Bloomberg's signature health initiative was to bar smoking in public parks and most other public places, including bars and restaurants, across the nation's largest city.

Asia

Philippines warns of possible volcanic eruption

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—One of the Philippines' most active volcanoes is showing signs of heightened unrest and an eruption is possible within weeks, government scientists warned Tuesday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level to "critical" for Mount Mayon in eastern Albay province late Monday after recording an escalation of unrest over a 15-hour period, including 39 incidents of hot rocks falling in the summit area and 32 low-frequency volcanic earthquakes.

The institute said molten lava and hot volcanic gases have made a glow in the 2,460-meter (8,070-foot) volcano's crater observable.

The activities show "Mayon is exhibiting relatively high unrest and that magma is at the crater and that hazardous eruption is possible within weeks," the institute said in its bulletin.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda ordered the evacuation of thousands of residents within a 6- to 8-kilometer (4- to 5-mile) radius of the volcano's crater. Disaster councils of the province and the region met to map out steps to avert casualties, said Jukes Nunez, a disaster management officer in the province.

The volcano institute said that it was important to keep people out of a "permanent danger zone" extending 6 kilometers (4 miles) from the mountain's crater and 7 kilometers on the southeastern flank. However, officials say many people venture into the area to farm or live when there is a lull in activity.

Mount Mayon, located about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila, has erupted more than 40 times over the past 400 years.

On May 7, 2013, the volcano spewed ash, killing five climbers, including three Germans who ventured near the summit despite the permanent danger zone.

Despite the risks, Mayon and its near-perfect cone is a favorite spot for volcano watchers. Most enjoy the occasional nighttime spectacle of the rim lit by flowing lava, viewing from the safety of hotels in Albay's capital, Legazpi.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghanistan: Suicide bomber targets foreign convoy

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A police official in Kabul says that a suicide car bomber has targeted a foreign convoy just a couple hundred yards (meters) from the U.S. Embassy. Faird Afzalai, the chief of criminal investigations for Kabul's police, said Tuesday that the bomber targeted a foreign convoy, but he did not immediately have information about what kind of convoy or the number of casualties. The blast happened on a busy road that runs from the U.S. Embassy to the airport. A white plume of smoke could be seen rising in the sky after a blast rattled windows in nearby neighborhoods. The attack comes as the country's two presidential contenders continue negotiations to form some sort of national unity government.

Typhoon hits southern China, heads to Vietnam

BEIJING (AP)—A typhoon has struck China's southernmost island of Hainan, forcing the cancellation of dozens of flights as it headed west toward Vietnam. China's official Xinhua News Agency said 90,000 people in southern China were evacuated from high-risk areas ahead of Typhoon Kalmaegi. But the storm's course was giving only a glancing blow to southern China as it headed toward its expected landfall in northern Vietnam late Tuesday. China's National Meteorological Center said the storm was expected to send winds of 137 to 144 kilometers per hour (85 to 90 mph) over southern mainland China. Xinhua said Hainan's international airport canceled 69 flights. Vietnam ordered residents in high-risk areas to evacuate and fishing boats to take shelter. Typhoon Kalmaegi slammed northern Philippines on Monday, killing at least two people.

Snowden: NSA collects mass data on New Zealanders

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Former National Security Agency systems analyst turned leaker Edward Snowden said Monday that the NSA is collecting mass surveillance data on New Zealanders through its XKeyscore program and has set up a facility in the South Pacific nation's largest city to tap into vast amounts of data. Snowden talked via video link from Russia to hundreds of people at Auckland's Town Hall. Shortly before he spoke, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key issued a statement saying New Zealand's spy agency, the Government Communications Security Bureau, or GCSB, has never undertaken mass surveillance of its own people. Key said he declassified previously secret documents that proved his point.

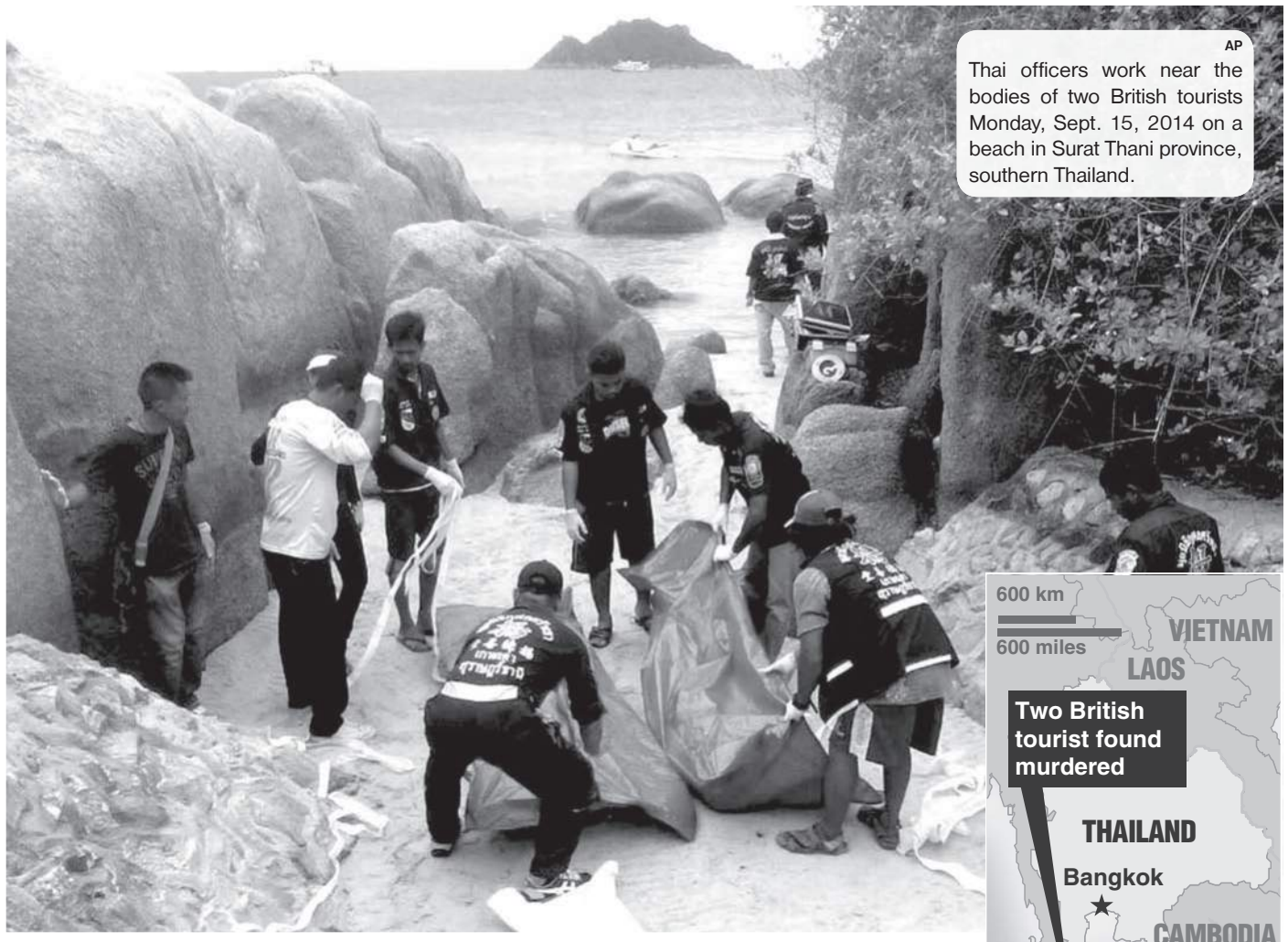
Wife says police detain 81-year-old Chinese writer

BEIJING (AP)—A well-known 81-year-old Chinese writer was taken from his Beijing home and detained by police after he wrote several articles critical of a senior politician, his wife said Monday. Police took away Huang Zerong, better known as Tieliu, on Sunday and issued a notice later that he had been detained on the vague charge of causing trouble, his wife, Ren Hengfang, said. She said police also detained Huang's medical caregiver on the same charge on the same day. There was no explanation of why the caregiver was detained. Beijing police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Maldives supports China's modern 'Silk Road' plan

MALE, Maldives (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping began a weeklong tour of South Asia on Monday, choosing the tiny island nation of the Maldives to tout his vision for a modern maritime "Silk Road." Maldives President Yameen Abdul Gayoom said his country was ready to participate actively in the initiative to create a shipping route from China to Europe via West Africa. Smaller Indian Ocean nations like the Maldives and Sri Lanka could become key stops along such a route, and China has already begun investing in ports along the way. The original Silk Road was a series of overland routes that linked China with the Mediterranean Sea, opening the way for economic, political and cultural interchange.

2 British tourists found dead on beach in Thailand



AP
Thai officers work near the bodies of two British tourists Monday, Sept. 15, 2014 on a beach in Surat Thani province, southern Thailand.

BANGKOK (AP)—Two British tourists were found battered to death Monday on a beach on a scenic island in southern Thailand that is one of the country's most popular diving destinations.

Police described the two as a 23-year-old woman from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, and a 24-year-old man from Jersey, Channel Islands. Their nearly naked bodies were discovered on Koh Tao, a small island in the Gulf of Thailand.

A bloodied hoe was found near the bodies and is believed to have been used as the murder weapon, police Col. Prachum Ruangthong said.

"The man was chopped in the back and on the side of his head, while the woman was chopped in her face," he said. "It's very gruesome."

An initial investigation found that the two had traveled separately to Koh Tao, where they met while staying at the same seaside hotel, police Maj. Gen. Kiattipong Khawsamang said.

"They went out to a bar and left together after 1 a.m. according to closed circuit TV camera footage," he said.

Police said they had no immediate suspects and were checking more camera footage in search of the attacker.

"We don't know who the suspect might be yet but we have talked to different witnesses who might lead us to some clues," Kiattipong said. He said the woman was traveling with three other friends.

Local media reported that outraged residents of the island, which is home to about 2,000 people and survives on tourism, had blockaded its piers to help police prevent the killer from escaping.

The attack came amid government efforts to revive Thailand's tourism industry after a military coup in May ended prolonged, sometimes violent political protests. Martial law remains in effect.

Koh Tao, an island in Surat Thani province, is a quieter destination than the neighboring islands of Koh Samui and Koh Phangan, where "full moon" parties attract travelers from Thailand and abroad. It is 410 kilometers (250 miles) south of Bangkok.

Chinese city creates cellphone sidewalk lane

BEIJING (AP)—Taking a cue from an American TV program, the Chinese city of Chongqing has created a smartphone sidewalk lane, offering a path for those too engrossed in messaging and tweeting to watch where they're going.

But the property manager says it's intended to be ironic—to remind people that it's dangerous to tweet while walking the street.

"There are lots of elderly people and children in our street, and walking with your cellphone may cause unnecessary collisions here," said Nong Cheng, the marketing official with Meixin Group, which manages the area in the city's entertainment zone.

Meixin has marked a 50-meter (165-foot) stretch of pavement with two lanes: one that prohibits cellphone use next to one that allows pedestrians to use them—at their "own risk."

Nong said the idea came from a similar stretch of pavement in Washington D.C. created by National Geographic Television in July as part of a behavior experiment.

She said that pedestrians were not taking the new lanes seriously, but that many were snapping pictures of the signs and sidewalk.

"Those using their cellphones of course have not heeded the markings on the pavement," she said. "They don't notice them."

World

700 feared dead in 2 Mediterranean boat wrecks

GENEVA (AP)—This year is on track to become the deadliest ever for migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea after two heavily loaded boats were wrecked in the past week, possibly killing 700 people fleeing Africa for Europe—the same number as died during all of last year.

That would raise the total number of migrants killed on the sea in 2014 to about 2,900, according to estimates from the International Organization for Migration and other officials.

More than 20,000 people have died in the past two decades trying to reach the Italian coast, including 2,300 in 2011 and around 700 in 2013. The migration organization says the steep death toll reflects turmoil in Libya, Syria, Iraq and across the Middle East and Africa. To escape those conflicts, many people are willing to board unsafe smugglers' boats.

About 500 Syrians, Palestinians, Egyptians and Sudanese are feared dead after their boat was rammed and sunk off the Malta coast last week, the IOM, an inter-governmental organization with 156 member countries, said Monday. Another 200 are feared dead in the wreck of a second boat that was carrying at least 250 African migrants to Europe when it capsized off the Libyan coast.

The migrants apparently lost off Malta were undertaking a perilous journey from the Egyptian port of Damietta, seeking a better life in Europe, when their boat was overtaken by human traffickers equipped with two vessels on Wednesday, said organization spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume.

For years now, thousands of African, Asian or Middle Eastern migrants have attempted risky voyages, primarily from Libya, across the Mediterranean to get to Italy's coastline and islands. Hundreds die en route. Unless they are eligible for asylum or have families or jobs in Europe, they risk expulsion by Italy.

This year, with the surge of conflicts, roughly as many arrived in the first few months of 2014 as in all of 2013. Many are Syrians, Palestinians, Eritreans, Sudanese or from other African countries.

Italy has repeatedly pleaded with its European partners for more help patrolling the waters. Previous deals between the Italian government and the regime of Moammar Gadhafi to thwart smuggling operations in exchange for Italian infrastructure projects yielded at best only modest results and fell apart when the regime was ousted.

According to IOM's interviews with two of the survivors from the group that left Damietta, the traffickers rammed the boat carrying the migrants with one of their vessels. The two survivors, both Palestinians, said there had been a violent confrontation between the migrants and the traffickers when the traffickers tried to move the migrants onto a smaller boat.

Berthiaume told The Associated Press the traffickers "used one boat to knock the other" and that there were about nine known survivors in all.

The Palestinians were rescued by a Panamanian-flagged container ship. Both were taken to Sicily. The other seven survivors were picked up by other boats that brought them to Crete, Greece and Malta.

``We cannot say how many might be missing" because the Italian Coast Guard didn't pick up those survivors who gave that account, said Lt. Alessandra Ventriglia. She said a search of the area, which lasted through Sunday, found no trace of the boat or the bodies.

Kerry: US open to talks with Iran on Islamic State

PARIS (AP)—As more than two dozen nations pledged Monday to help Iraq fight the Islamic State militants, the United States said it was open to talking to Iran about a role in resolving the crisis, despite Washington's earlier opposition to Tehran even attending the conference.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry ruled out any military coordination with Iran, which in the end was not invited to Paris.

"That doesn't mean that we are opposed to the idea of communicating to find out if they will come on board, or under what circumstances, or whether there is the possibility of a change," Kerry told a small group of reporters.

France and Iraq see Shiite-powerhouse Iran as an interlocutor who could bring its influence to bear in the region against the Sunni extremists of the Islamic State group, but some Arab states, like Saudi Arabia, disagree.

The U.S. opposed a place for Iran at the conference. But Tehran, which has political and military influence with its neighbor Iraq, still managed to be part of the conversation.

The absence of Iran underscored the conflicting sensitivities and complex politics in the region as Western countries seek to battle the Islamic State group, which has taken control of large parts of Iraq and Syria.

The meeting of foreign ministers from Asia, the Middle East and the West was a first step toward deciding who does what in a multilayered offensive against the Islamic State group. As envisioned by France and Iraq, the effort would include intensifying airstrikes, cutting off financing, and helping Baghdad cope through humanitarian aid and reconstruction. There would be no combat troops on the ground, however.

As the conference began, two French jets took off over Iraq in France's first reconnaissance missions over the country in a sign of the larger battle ahead. Later, the United States, which has led airstrikes over Iraq since August, said it had taken the first step in its planned expanded fight against Islamic State militants, going to the aid of Iraqi security forces near Baghdad who were being attacked by enemy fighters.

The strikes represent the newly broadened mission authorized by President Barack Obama to go on the offensive against the Islamic State group wherever it is. Previous U.S. airstrikes in Iraq were conducted to protect U.S. interests and personnel, assist Iraqi refugees and secure critical infrastructure. U.S. officials said Iraqi forces requested assistance when they came under fire from militants.

"We are asking for airborne operations to be continued regularly against terrorist sites. We must not allow them to set up sanctuaries. We must pursue them wherever they are," Iraqi President Fouad Massoum said, an apparent reference to neighboring Syria.

Syria, deep in a civil war waged in part by rival extremist groups, was the wellspring for the Islamic State group, with its fighters sweeping across the border into Iraq, overwhelming the military in Sunni-dominated Anbar province and capitalizing on grievances against the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

The fighters went on to conquer Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, with the U.S.-trained military crumbling, and seized tanks and other military equipment, then steamrolled across northern Iraq.

Generation gap: Young Scots favor independence

By PAUL KELBIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)—Across Scotland, dinner table talk is getting heated as families argue over how to vote in Scotland's independence referendum. A generation gap has opened up, with younger voters more inclined to back independence and their elders tending to say they want to remain in the United Kingdom.

Support for the status quo is strongest among the over-60s, who worry about the consequences that breaking free would have on pensions, health care and savings; the pro-independence movement is largely being driven by under-40s. Neck-and-neck in the polls, the rival campaigns have called on core supporters to make a last ditch attempt to swing the vote by making the debate a family affair.

The young have been urged to visit parents and grandparents to explain why they should support separation. The No camp has launched a counteroffensive by asking seniors to win young hearts and minds with their wisdom.

"I was so proud of my grandpa when he told me he was voting Yes that I burst into tears," said 23-year-old Miriam Brett, a campaigner for Generation Yes. "A Yes vote means so much to my generation. We want to let all our grandparents know that their future is secure in our hands, and with a Yes we can build a better future for ourselves and for our children."

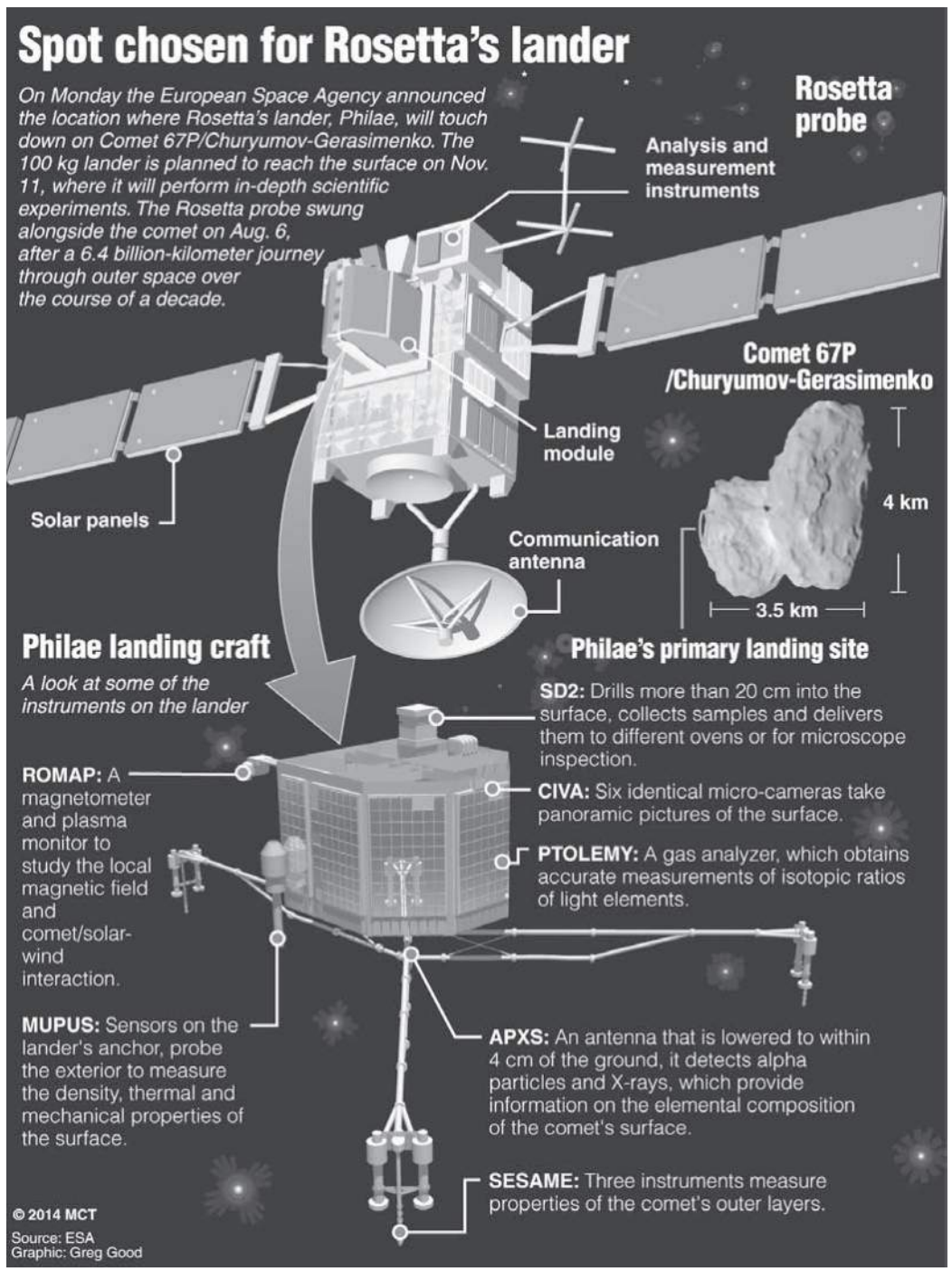
Some polls suggest the No camp is trailing in every age group except the over-60s. Opinion surveys indicate more than 63 percent of that age group is expected to vote in favor of the union. As older people are more likely to be on the electoral roll, there has been a huge drive to get younger people engaged in the Yes campaign.

Interest in the referendum is sky high. A total of 4,285,323 people, or 97 percent of the voting-age population, have registered to vote in the referendum. That's an increase of 300,000 compared to registration figures in 2012.

The turnout for Thursday's ballot could exceed 85 percent, compared to the just over 50 percent who voted in the last Scottish Parliament elections in 2011, and the 63.8 percent who turned out for the 2010 British parliamentary election.

Many people in the rest of Britain have recently awakened to the possibility that Scotland might leave. Thousands of Union Jack-waving demonstrators gathered in London's Trafalgar Square on Monday in a last-minute show of affection for England's northern neighbor.

Musician Bob Geldof and comedian Eddie Izzard were among speakers at a rally that organizer Dan Snow said was designed to show "that England cares."


Spot chosen for Rosetta's lander
On Monday the European Space Agency announced the location where Rosetta's lander, Philae, will touch down on Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. The 100 kg lander is planned to reach the surface on Nov. 11, where it will perform in-depth scientific experiments. The Rosetta probe swung alongside the comet on Aug. 6, after a 6.4 billion-kilometer journey through outer space over the course of a decade.
Rosetta probe
Analysis and measurement instruments
Comet 67P /Churyumov-Gerasimenko
Landing module
Solar panels
Communication antenna
4 km
3.5 km
Philae landing craft
A look at some of the instruments on the lander
Philae's primary landing site
SD2: Drills more than 20 cm into the surface, collects samples and delivers them to different ovens or for microscope inspection.
ROMAP: A magnetometer and plasma monitor to study the local magnetic field and comet/solar-wind interaction.
CIVA: Six identical micro-cameras take panoramic pictures of the surface.
PTOLEMY: A gas analyzer, which obtains accurate measurements of isotopic ratios of light elements.
MUPUS: Sensors on the lander's anchor, probe the exterior to measure the density, thermal and mechanical properties of the surface.
APXS: An antenna that is lowered to within 4 cm of the ground, it detects alpha particles and X-rays, which provide information on the elemental composition of the comet's surface.
SESAME: Three instruments measure properties of the comet's outer layers.
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Source: ESA
Graphic: Greg Good

Focus

No end in sight for America's Mideast war duties

DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Thirteen years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, this was supposed to be a season of relief, with Iraq managing on its own and most U.S. troops finally ending their combat duty in Afghanistan. Instead, Americans are bracing for another upsurge of military engagement in a region where one war blurs into another. Across the world, a generation has now grown up amid this continuous conflict, and there's no end in sight.

"The Cold War took 45 years," said Elliott Abrams, a longtime diplomat who was top Middle East adviser to President George W. Bush. "It's certainly plausible that this could be the same. ... It's harder to see how this ends."

For now, President Barack Obama seems to have bipartisan support as he prepares to outline his plans Wednesday for expanded operations against militants of the so-called Islamic State who have overrun large swaths of Iraq and Syria. His administration has cautioned that the effort could take several years.

Short-term, Obama has public opinion with him; a new Washington Post-ABC News poll found 71 percent of Americans supporting airstrikes against the Islamic State fighters, compared to 45 percent in June. Longer-term, a Pew Research Center-USA Today poll last month suggested that most Americans view the world as becoming more dangerous and expect militant forms of Islam to grow in influence rather than subside.

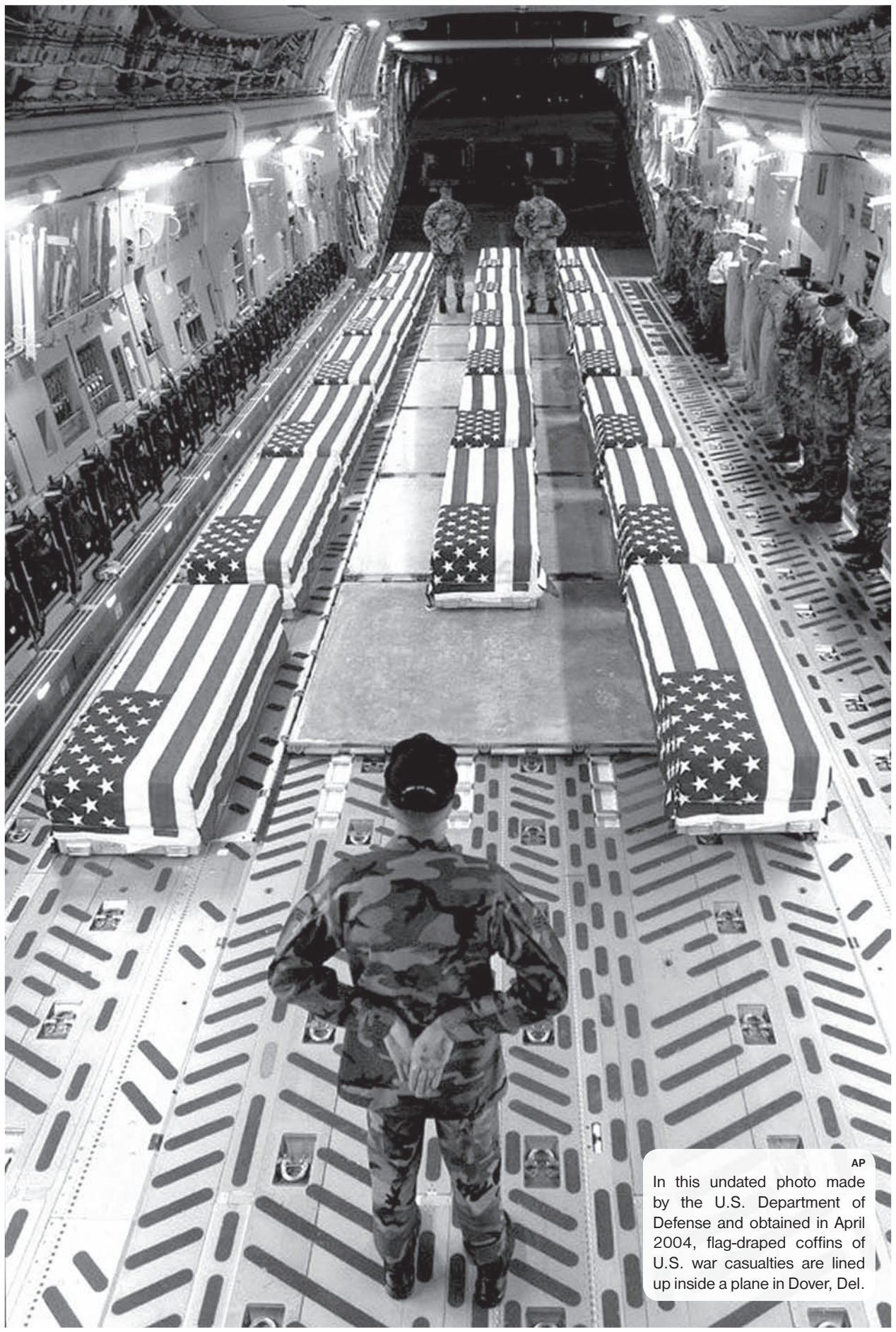
Since the autumn of 2001, America, with its allies, has been at war against factions of Islamic militants and terrorists, including the Taliban and al-Qaida, as well as offshoots in Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere.

Indeed, some analysts say the conflict dates back further, citing such incidents as the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York and the 1983 bombing that killed 241 U.S. servicemen at a barracks in Lebanon. Military historian Max Boot suggests the starting point was the Iranian revolution of 1979, when the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was seized and its staff held hostage for 444 days.

"For the first time, we understood the threat by armed Islamist extremism," said Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and former adviser to Republican presidential campaigns. "We didn't face up to it—we tried to ignore it as long as possible. But after 9/11, we couldn't ignore it anymore."

The Sept. 11 attacks triggered the invasion of Afghanistan by the U.S. and its allies, starting in October 2001, with the aim of dismantling al-Qaida's base of operations and toppling the Taliban regime. The Taliban, though quickly ousted from power, has been waging an insurgency ever since.

In 2003, the U.S. spearheaded an invasion of Iraq, citing various justifications but nonetheless categorizing the conflict as part of "the Global War on Terrorism." Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was captured, tried and executed, yet an insurgency arose against the U.S.-led coalition waged by various factions, including al-Qaida affiliates and Sunni militants who were precursors of the Islamic State group.



AP
In this undated photo made by the U.S. Department of Defense and obtained in April 2004, flag-draped coffins of U.S. war casualties are lined up inside a plane in Dover, Del.

> For the first time, we understood the threat by armed Islamist extremism. ...We tried to ignore it as long as possible. But after 9/11, we couldn't ignore it anymore.

Obama's plans for an expanded mission against Islamic State fighters are expected to include intensified airstrikes but no major deployment of ground troops, along with a heavy reliance on allies. The role of Middle East nations could be pivotal, said Wathiq al-Hashimi, director of the al-Nahrein Center for Strategic Studies in Baghdad.

"The United States failed in both Afghanistan and Iraq, but this time round may be different since the Islamic State is posing a serious danger to close U.S. allies in the region who cannot defend themselves on their own," al-Hashimi said. "The United States will be going in this time with the blessing of regional powers."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations, contends that much of the Middle East's conflicts could have been avoided or eased if the U.S. government had been less willing to tolerate authoritarian regimes and more willing to criticize Israel's policies toward the Palestinians.

Hooper said the Islamic State group's ascension in Iraq could have been prevented if the U.S. had insisted on a nonsectarian Iraqi government, rather than the one led by recently replaced Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that favored Shiite Muslims over the Sunnis. Similarly, Hooper said the U.S. could have deprived the Islamic State group of its strongholds in Syria by intervening early in Syria's civil war on behalf of moderate rebels opposing President Bashar Assad.

"Our counterproductive policies have created a political vacuum in which ISIS can flourish," said Hooper, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "Without massive injustices in the region, they would not exist."

James Jay Carafano, a national security expert with the conservative Heritage Foundation, offered a contrasting analysis, blaming Obama for "taking his foot off the pedal" by withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 and thereby emboldening Islamic State fighters.

Back in 2003, Carafano published a commentary titled, "The Long War Against Terrorism" in which he urged Americans to brace for a sustained struggle.

"Such a war requires our leaders to understand that our staying power, our will to win, is as important as any weapon in our arsenal," he wrote.

However weary of war, the American public is willing to back aggressive, long-term engagements overseas, Carafano argued in a telephone interview this week.

"All our conflicts start out popular, but only World War II stayed that way," Carafano said. "People gradually get less excited over time.

"But Americans are relatively practical people," he added. "If you're doing the right thing and it's working, they'll be with you."

Looking ahead, experts familiar with the Middle East say it's hard to foresee a total victory for the U.S. and its allies any time soon. Abrams, for example, noted that many hundreds of young people from the West were eager to join the Islamic State group, enabling it to replenish its ranks and gird for a long struggle.

"It's clear that the Americans have made up their minds to get involved in what is likely to be an open-ended war," said Hilal Khashan, professor of political science at the American University of Beirut. "The Americans know how to start a war, but not to end one."

"The Americans' intervention is selective: They invaded Iraq but left Iran alone, they are leaving Israel to do as it pleases in Gaza, they are leaving the Syrian regime to kill its people," Khashan added. "And whenever they intervene, they just make things worse. They may destroy the Islamic State, but what happens to the problems in Iraq and Syria?"

Daniel Byman, research director at the Brookings Institution's Center for Middle East Policy, said he prefers the term "manageable" over "winnable" as a goal in trying to counter threats from the region's extremists and terrorists.

"There's no clear victory point when the enemy gives up," Byman said. "There's likely to be some level of terrorism, but it can't be to the point where it disrupts our lives in some fundamental way."

Max Boot suggested the overall conflict was winnable—but only through a long-term struggle comparable to the Cold War.

"This radical, armed Islamism will burn itself out," he said. "The problem is an awful lot of people who will die between now and then."

Good Housekeeping

Do contractors charge to estimate a job?

By ANGIE HICKS
ANGIE'S LIST

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT
If you want to know how much it will cost to get something fixed, a free estimate is more likely.

How much should you expect to pay, if anything, for an estimate, inspection or other kind of contractor consultation? The answer depends on the nature of your project and the policies of the companies from which you solicit bids.

But a few rules of thumb apply:

If you want to know how much it will cost to get something fixed, a free estimate is more likely. If you want a service provider to determine the source of a problem, you'll probably have to pay for the diagnosis. For instance, if you know you're missing roof shingles and want an estimated replacement cost, you probably won't have to pay for a bid. But if you have no idea what's causing a leak, you'll need a roof inspection, which can cost $200 or more, depending on where you live.

Free estimates are more typical for smaller, uncomplicated jobs, such as window-washing. Larger, more elaborate projects—like a kitchen remodel—may require a consultation, which could carry a cost if more is involved than a remodeler talking to you by phone, visiting and then offering suggestions based on the visit. But if the consultation includes detailed design work, multiple plans and revisions, a contractor may ask you to pay for a full design, which can range from $150 to $1,000.

Because companies' policies on estimates differ, be sure to ask questions. Find out what a quote entails, what form it will take, how soon you'll receive it and if there will be any associated charges. Even if you're told the actual bid is free, there could be a trip charge to cover fuel and vehicle expenses. Ask if a service provider might waive charges if he or she ends up with the job.

When getting estimates, seek as much written detail as possible, including:

- The basic scope of the project, including who's responsible for each aspect of the work
- Start and completion dates
- Payment terms
- Cost of labor and materials
- Cost for permits to be pulled
- Proof of licensure, if necessary, as well as workers' compensation, liability insurance and bonding

When evaluating bids, go through them item by item. Ask contractors any questions you have. When you make your final choice, be sure to read through and adjust any aspects of the contract before signing.

Don't neglect to promptly update the unsuccessful bidders. It's a simple courtesy, especially considering the time some spend compiling detailed estimates. A short handwritten letter, brief email or a quick phone call should suffice.

Angie Hicks is the founder of Angie's List, a resource for local consumer reviews on everything from home repair to health care. Follow her on Twitter @Angie_Hicks.

COMFORT FOODS

Chocolate Pecan Applesauce Cake

How about an ultra-easy (and tasty) cake you can serve for just about any occasion? A piece of this cake should convince everyone that "tasty" and "healthy" can be in the same recipe.

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
Sugar substitute to equal 3/4 cup sugar, suitable for baking
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
3 tablespoons chopped pecans
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon table salt
1 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/2 cup water
1 teaspoon canola oil
1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-9-inch cake pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar substitute, cocoa, pecans, baking soda and salt. Add applesauce, water, oil, vinegar and vanilla extract. Mix gently just to combine. Evenly spread batter into prepared cake pan.

3. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until cake tests done in center. Place cake pan on a wire rack and let cool for at least 15 minutes. Makes 8 servings. Good warm or cold.***(Healthy Exchanges/King Features Synd., Inc.)***

YOUR PLACE

What to do if you smell gas in your home

By ALAN J. HEAVENS
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Contact Alan J. Heavens at aheavens@phillynews.com or write him at The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia PA 19101. Volume prohibits individual replies.

Art is imitating life here.

As I write this, I'm waiting for our utility to replace a 1924 steel gas line that was found to be leaking.

So the gas is off for a couple of hours, and a three-man crew is digging up the street in front of my house to fix the problem, thanks to a detection unit that roams our street once a year, as required by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

What happens between visits?

Detection is up to you, and the utilities have made it easier.

Natural gas is a colorless, odorless hydrocarbon that's nearly 100 percent combustible.

It is primarily composed of methane, with small amounts of ethane, nitrogen, and carbon dioxide also part of its chemical makeup.

For safety purposes, a chemical odorant is added, which makes the presence of gas detectable.

Utility company PSE&G, which employs the three fellows working in my neighborhood, offers this advice if you smell gas in your home:

Put out all open flames. No smoking. Do not light any appliances.

Don't touch electric switches, thermostats, appliance controls, or electric panel breakers. Doing so may cause sparks that could lead to an ignition.

Do not use an automatic garage door opener.

Do not start your car if it is in the garage or in close proximity to the house.

Open windows and outside doors for ventilation.

If the odor is strong, don't use your telephone or cellphone inside the house. Leave the premises on foot and call the utility from a neighbor's home and remain outside until the emergency crew arrives.

Do not assume that someone else will report the condition. (Utilities typically do not charge their customers for responding to gas-leak emergencies.)

If your basement has flooded and needs to be pumped out and you have access to the gas control, turn it off before pumping out the basement.

If you're unable to turn the gas off yourself, contact your local fire or municipal authorities before pumping out your basement.

DOLLARS AND SENSE

By DAVID UFFINGTON
2014 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

All across the country, students hoped that the start of this school year would bring back their old school lunches. It didn't happen. Students are up in arms about the federally mandated changes to their lunches. Older students have taken to posting online pictures of what they're given. Many are claiming they won't eat what's being served, or that the portions are too small. Students who stay after school for clubs or sports are left hungry at the end of the day, especially the athletes.

They aren't the only ones who are unhappy.

Cafeteria managers have been scrambling to prepare meals the students will actually eat instead of throwing away most of the food. They're limited in the amount of meat and grains that can be served in a week (measured in ounces), and must follow guidelines about specific calories by age group (as though all 7-year-old students are identical). To hit their targets, they've resorted to odd pairings of food and have cut portion sizes.

Parents are left wondering whether they'll forever be forced to pack lunches for their kids. The answer is...probably. Even that won't solve the whole problem: There have been reports of overzealous school staff inspecting brown bag lunches. In clear overkill, some have taken away those lunches and provided a school lunch for the child.

There are, thankfully, some school districts that are refusing to continue limiting their lunch offerings to what is now legal. They're dropping out of the program, giving up tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funding to do so.

What's a parent to do? First, if your child is throwing away school lunch food or is hungry again in two hours, complain to your school district. They're likely already in the process of deciding whether or not to stick with the legal lunches.

Second, call the school and find out the policy for the contents of a child's bag lunch. If anything you chose to provide is OK, one battle is solved. Get ready to pack lunches.

You know what your child will eat and how much, what the pediatrician says about your child's health and weight, and what current "food phase" your child might be in.

Bottom line: A hungry child isn't going to learn. Send your child off with a lunch you know he or she is going to eat.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Send email to columnreply3@gmail.com. (c)

Life & Style

Forward-thinking U2 innovating while entertaining

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

Since U2 stunned the music world by delivering a surprise album at Apple's iPhone 6 unveiling and making it available to a half-billion iTunes users for free, they've gotten an avalanche of publicity.

But who's listening to it? The picture started to become more clear when Apple said Monday that 33 million users downloaded or streamed "Songs of Innocence" in the first six days of its release. Apple says that's a record, but for U2's manager, Guy Oseary, the numbers weren't really the point: The album will live on in users' iCloud, and the band envisions new listeners accessing it for the first time for years to come.

"We're quite happy that 7 percent of the planet has this album, and they can enjoy it at their leisure," Oseary said.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Famers' move was hotly debated within the industry as people tried to assess whether it was another stroke of genius from a band that has been a top-selling juggernaut for decades or a ploy by an aging group trying to make a splash in a landscape that has vastly changed since it released its last album in 2009. Even though that album went platinum, its sales were a bit of a disappointment for the band.

Back then, frontman Bono told The Associated Press, "We felt that the `album' is almost an extinct species, and we (tried to) create a mood and feeling, and a beginning, middle and an end. And I suppose we've made a work that is a bit challenging for people who have grown up on a diet of pop stars."

That diet has gotten even more extreme since then, with album sales continuing to plummet industrywide, singles dominating and streaming services including Spotify and even iTunes helping to diminish the impact of a cohesive art form album.

So what is U2 trying to achieve with its latest Apple alliance? Oseary said the band achieved one goal: keeping the integrity of "Songs" intact by releasing it as an album. As far as U2's larger business goals?

"I don't expect everyone to get everything now," Oseary said. "Maybe in a few years things will start making sense or they won't. But that's not our job. Our job is to make sure the music is in as many hands as possible. This was an incredible opportunity to do that."

U2 joined Jay Z, Beyonce and a growing number of artists who are working out exclusive corporate deals and employing guerrilla ad campaigns rather than moving the album through the typical marketing plan of singles release and slow build to launch date.

Like Jay Z and his Samsung partnership to launch "Magna Carta ... Holy Grail" last year, U2 and Interscope Records get handsomely paid—something that's no longer guaranteed from album sales alone—and the money comes on up front. Apple continues a high-profile relationship with a longtime business and philanthropic partner, plus earns more credit for innovation. Fans get something for free and those who don't want it can just ignore it.

"I applaud each of those artists creating a stir and not just falling into a predictable marketing strategy," longtime producer and Sony Music Entertainment executive Clive Davis said. "I think in the case of Beyoncé and Jay Z, they had successful results triggering so much extra media attention and coverage because they didn't do things in a formulaic kind of manner."

But there may be penalties to pay later if physical retailers refuse to stock the album, as Target did when Beyonce surprise-dropped her self-titled LP exclusively on iTunes last December for a week (it was still a top-seller worldwide). And there are still lots of questions. Will fans now buy a physical copy, released Oct. 14? Will the band lose some of its cool? Even the unflappable Jay Z suffered backlash when the app he and Samsung used to distribute his album to 1 million customers cataloged user information, and there have already been complaints from some who didn't want a U2 album on their cloud—even as a gift.

AP
In this Sept. 9, 2014 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook, left, greets Bono from the band U2 after they preformed at the end of the Apple event on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014, in Cupertino, Calif.

Apple releases tool to remove free U2 album

NEW YORK (AP)—Some iPhone users are not happy that U2's new album, "Songs of Innocence," was automatically added to their iTunes music library, free of charge. In response, Apple has released a special tool that lets people remove the album from their collections.

U2 played at an Apple event last week that included the unveiling of the iPhone maker's new smartwatch and updated iPhone models. In a surprise move, the Irish rock band performed at the event and put out its 11-song release.

Apple CEO Tim Cook announced that the new album would be given to the company's 500 million iTunes users. The release showed up in users' iTunes music libraries. The company said Monday that 33 million iTunes account holders have accessed the free album.

But some iTunes users took to Twitter to complain and ask how to remove it. While it was already possible to delete the album, Apple's tool makes it possible in one step.

In Loving memory of

†Abel Vincenzo Olopai Pellegrino

Born to life on December 01, 1995
Called to Eternal Life on September 09, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:
Parents : **†Anthony and †Eileen Olopai Pellegrino**
Grandparents : †Abel Rabauliman Olopai and †Carmen Kotomor Olopai
†Vincenzo and †Concetta Lena Pellegrino
Uncles and Aunties : †Titus K. Olopai, †Jude K. Olopai, †Helen K. Olopai, †Irene O. Borja, †Anne P. Ettaro

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Brothers : **Julian Apollonius O. Pellegrino**
Neil Pellegrino
Sisters : **Prunella Leimope O. Pellegrino**
Miki P. Ranjo (Andrew & Regina, Tiana, Andrea)
Step Mom : **Mila Parchamento Pellegrino**
(Maridel, Madel, Mariefe, Fidel)

He will be greatly missed by his Uncles, Aunties, Relatives and Dear Friends:
†Titus (Cyrus)
†Jude (Carnesia & Ferdinand, Leina, Alana, Judy, Jude Jr. & Tia)
Shirley O. Calvo and Dan Santos (Richly & Kaimi)
Delfina O. and Michael Outland (Carmen Christine & Daniel, Christopher)
†Irene O. and Joseph F. Borja (Xavier and Joshua)
Jean O. and Mark Rabauliman (Sophia Miley)
Samuel and Jessie Pellegrino (Sam, Lee, Victoria, Valerie)
†Anne (Nancy & Greg, Linda)

Godparents : Judge Kenneth and Domie C. Govendo

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is prayed nightly at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Church.

His mortal remains will be arriving from Honolulu, Hawaii on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. He will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:00am to Kristo Rai Church.
Responso Service will be at 7:30am followed by Holy Rosary at 7:45am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan.

There, he will be at a peaceful rest joining his parents, †Tony & †Eileen O. Pellegrino, his grandparents †Abel & †Carmen K. Olopai, his uncles and aunties, †Jude, †Titus, †Irene and †Helen.

Please join us in prayers,

Mila Parchamento Pellegrino
Julian Olopai Pellegrino and Prunella Olopai Pellegrino
Miki P. Ranjo and Neil Pellegrino
-- Family --

Revamped 'View' begins its daytime run

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Daytime's "The View" revealed its latest makeover Monday, opening the post-Barbara Walters era with a new set, new boss, mostly new team and a promise to be provocative again.

Whoopi Goldberg is the only holdover on the daytime chatfest, which has faded in recent years as competitors sought to improve on its ensemble format. A slimmed-down Rosie O'Donnell returned for her second run, joined by actress Rosie Perez and former Republican political operative Nicolle Wallace.

"'The View' is the show that everyone has copied but we're the original," Goldberg said.

Backstage after the show, Goldberg said the hosts had been told the past few years to avoid political topics. That clearly wasn't the case Monday, as the four cast members dove right into a discussion about domestic abuse and the National Football League, along with changing attitudes toward corporal punishment. O'Donnell said that while she was able to look past abuse charges against Chris Brown and enjoy his work, she couldn't do that with Woody Allen and no longer sees his movies.

Goldberg couldn't stifle giggles when talking to Wallace about Sarah Palin, with whom she clashed while working for the GOP's 2008 national ticket.

"When did you want to just pop her?" Perez asked.

Otherwise, Wallace struggled to get a few words in during her first show.

"I'm a Republican, we should get that out of the way," she said in introducing herself.

"And I really like her!" O'Donnell shouted from two chairs away. "I swear to God."

O'Donnell, who has shed more than 50 pounds after a heart attack last year, sat barefoot and cross-legged in her chair, saying she's recovering from a nerve ailment. She said later the show seems to be moving toward discussions of what women "really care about, and it's not all about pop culture."

She said she's expecting a smoother time than her previous eight months on "The View," which ended in 2007. In part that's because longtime producer Bill Geddie is out, replaced by Rachel Maddow's former producer, Bill Wolff.

"We had a different idea of what the show could or should be," she said about her first tenure. "But when someone invites you into their house for dinner, you don't rearrange the furniture. This is a new house with a new owner, and I was invited to consult on what the furniture should be."

O'Donnell was the ringmaster during commercial breaks, taking a microphone and interacting with the audience. It created some moments funnier than what appeared on the air, like when one onlooker asked whether someone else might be added to the four-person cast.

"This isn't enough for you?" she joked. "Get the (expletive) out."

Onscreen, she played a brief game with an audience member and Perez, asking them to guess which Rosie had said or done certain things. Also Monday, Kristin Chenoweth came on for a song in tribute to the late Joan Rivers.

AP
In this image released by ABC, co-hosts, from left, Whoopi Goldberg, Nicolle Wallace, Rosie Perez and Rosie O'Donnell appear on the set of the daytime talk show "The View," on Monday, Sept. 15, 2014 in New York.

Cat Stevens announces 5-city US concert tour

NEW YORK (AP)—New Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Cat Stevens is taking the "Peace Train" back on the road.

He announced Monday that he will make a six-city concert tour in North America this December, his first series of shows in the U.S. since 1976. His conversion to Islam followed, putting his music career on hold for a quarter century.

Stevens, who also is releasing a blues album on Oct. 27 produced by Rick Rubin and titled "Tell `Em I'm Gone," is using that stage name along with Yusuf, the name he took when he converted. The performer of 1970s-era hits "Wild World," "Morning Has Broken" and "Peace Train" has slowly broken back into secular music during the past decade and has made only a handful of semi-public and television appearances in the U.S.

"I've been a bit slow in coming around to the United States, but there were so many people asking me to do that, that I just felt an obligation," Stevens said in a telephone interview from Dubai, where he lives most of the time now.

The title of the "Peace Train ... Late Again" tour refers to his unhurried music career. Only six dates are scheduled so far—starting Dec. 1 in Toronto and hitting Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Stevens said he frequently gets feedback on Facebook asking him to perform more and that it makes him feel guilty "because I'm not doing as much as they want me to do. Then again, I'm 66 years old, and I do take things in my stride."

Stevens, who was inducted into the rock hall this spring in Brooklyn, said he had a lot of hesitation about getting back into the music business.

"That's something I ran away from a long time ago," he said. "But that's not to say the music business is the same as making music. When I finally reconciled my questions about the issue—where it should be in my life—by that time, I had something to say. I wouldn't be writing songs if I didn't have something to say."

Despite the political climate, with the U.S. fighting Islamic State militants in the Middle East, Stevens said he didn't expect his faith to be an issue when he goes on the road in this country.

Gamers use police hoax to lash out at opponents

By SADIE GURMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER (AP)—The calls to 911 raised an instant alarm: One caller said he shot his co-workers at a Colorado video game company and had hostages. Another in Florida said her father was drunk, wielding a machine gun and threatening their family.

A third caller on New York's Long Island claimed to have killed his mother and threatened to shoot first responders.

In each case, SWAT teams dispatched to the scene found no violent criminals or wounded victims—only video game players sitting at their computers, the startled victims of a hoax known as "swatting."

Authorities say the hoax that initially targeted celebrities has now become a way for players of combat-themed video games to retaliate against opponents while thousands of spectators watch. The perpetrators can watch their hijinks unfold minute by minute in a window that shows a live video image of other players.

"It's like creating your own episode of 'Cops,'" said Dr. John Grohol, a research psychologist who studies online behavior, referring to the long-running reality TV show that follows officers on patrol.

The players, who are often many miles away, look up their opponent's addresses in phone directories, sometimes using services that can find unlisted numbers. They also exploit online programs that trick 911 dispatchers into believing an emergency call is coming from the victim's phone or address. All the while, they conceal their own identities and locations.

Authorities spent an estimated $100,000 to send more than 60 officers in April to the hoax in Long Beach, New York. Investigators said the caller was upset over losing a game of Call of Duty when he called police using Skype. SWAT officers found only a teenager wearing headphones.

In Bradenton, Florida, at least 15 officers showed up at the home of a professional video game player on Aug. 31 after a caller posing as his young daughter phoned in a report that he was armed and drunk. Instead, they found him playing Minecraft for a live audience over Twitch.tv, an online network with millions of viewers.

Eminem publishers sue New Zealand political party

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The music publishers for American rapper Eminem filed a lawsuit Tuesday against New Zealand's ruling political party over the music it used in a campaign commercial.

Detroit-based Eight Mile Style and Martin Affiliated both claim the National Party breached copyright laws by using Eminem's song "Lose Yourself." Joel Martin, a spokesman for the two companies, said they filed a case in the New Zealand High Court and are seeking damages.

"It is both disappointing and sadly ironic that the political party responsible for championing the rights of music publishers in New Zealand ... should itself have so little regard for copyright," Martin said. "We do not hesitate to take immediate action to protect the integrity of Eminem's works."

The National Party said in a statement that it would vigorously defend the action. It said the music it used was originally published by Spider Cues Music in Los Angeles and sold to it by an Australian-based supplier.

"The National Party completely rejects the allegation that the library music used in its early campaign advertisements is a copyright infringement of any artist's work," the party said.

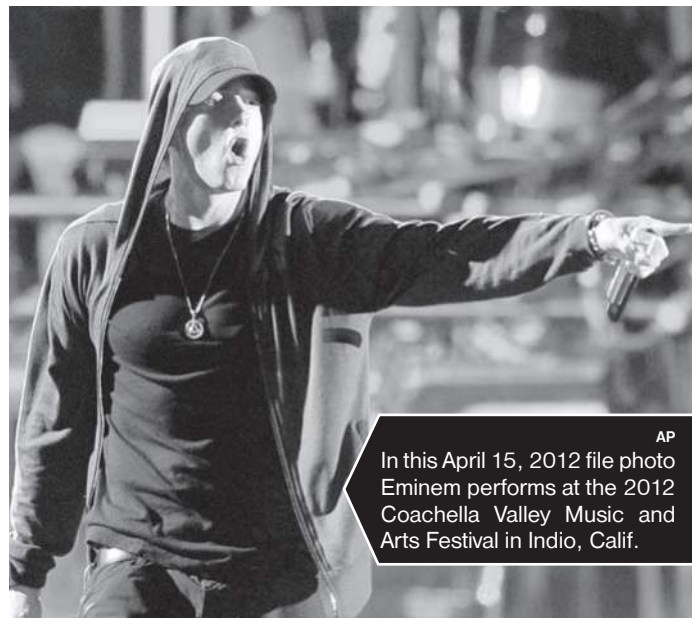
It said that, nevertheless, it had undertaken two weeks ago not to use the music anymore.

"However, this has not satisfied the complainant," the party added.

Martin said the publishers have previously sued Apple for using an Eminem song in an ad without permission and have been in a dispute with Audi over alleged infringing use of "Lose Yourself."

The disputed ad in New Zealand depicts a boat filled with people rowing together, aimed at symbolizing the party's unity.

New Zealand's general election is set for Sept. 20.



AP
In this April 15, 2012 file photo Eminem performs at the 2012 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

Police: Protocol followed in detention of actress

AP
Actress Daniele Watts and Brian Lucas speak during an interview with KABC-TV in Los Angeles, Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police said Monday they followed proper protocol when they demanded identification from an actress and her boyfriend while investigating an emergency call alleging lewd conduct in a parked car.

Daniele Watts, who appeared in "Django Unchained," says she was unjustly handcuffed and detained Thursday after refusing to provide identification and walking away from officers responding to a report of lewd conduct in a car along Ventura Boulevard in Studio City.

Watts said in an interview Monday that she and her boyfriend, Brian Lucas, were kissing in the car and fully clothed, with nothing improper going on.

She and Lucas wrote about the incident on Facebook and posted photos of a crying Watts in handcuffs. Lucas said he suspects that onlookers assumed Watts to be a prostitute and him a client because she is black and he is white.

Los Angeles police Lt. Andrew Neiman said citizens are required to identify themselves if requested to do so by an officer who has reasonable suspicion to believe an offense may have been committed.

In this case, he said, reasonable suspicion was created by the emergency services call, and Watts and Lucas fit the description and location described by the caller.

Celebrity website TMZ posted audio of the exchange between Watts and police. Neiman and Bill McCoy, a spokesman for the couple, say the audio is authentic, though its origin is unknown.

On the recording, a police sergeant is heard telling Watts, "Somebody called, which gives me the right to be here, so it gives me the right to identify you by law."

Watts can be heard responding in frustration. She was detained until police determined no crime was committed.

Neiman said it is unlikely that a recording of the emergency call will be made public. The results of the LAPD's internal investigation of the matter, which could take several months, are also unlikely to be released, he said.

Watts said the officer's demeanor was an emotional trigger for her because of personal and historical experiences of racial profiling by police.

"He was not abusive," she said. "He was not overtly racist."

She said she felt as though she was singled out even though she hadn't done anything wrong. She said she is speaking out about the incident in hopes of furthering a discussion about "questions that give us clarity about the nature of our being in this society."

"I can understand how people would say that I'm being a drama queen and that I created this situation for publicity," she said. "To a certain degree, you can say they're correct in that if I'm going to be in the public eye, I'm going to stand up for what I believe in, and I don't believe I committed any crime where I deserved to be in handcuffs."

Clooney to receive HFPA's Cecil B. DeMille Award

Clooney

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Clooney is sure to take home a trophy at next year's Golden Globe Awards.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday that the 53-year-old entertainer and activist will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the ceremony on Jan. 11, 2015.

The award is presented annually to an individual who's made "an incredible impact on the world of entertainment."

Association president Theo Kingma cited Clooney's achievements on both sides of the camera and his humanitarian efforts around the world.

Clooney has won two Oscars and four Golden Globes. He's also been recognized for his efforts to bring attention to atrocities in Darfur and for producing the "Help Haiti Now" telethon to raise money after the devastating earthquake there in 2010.

Atlanta rapper Gucci Mane sentenced in assault case

ATLANTA (AP)—Prosecutors say rapper Gucci Mane has pleaded guilty to aggravated assault for attacking a fan at an Atlanta nightclub.

Fulton County District Attorney's spokeswoman Yvette Jones says the 34-year-old rapper, whose real name is Radric Davis, pleaded guilty Monday to hitting a man in the head with a vodka bottle on March 16, 2013, in a nightclub's VIP section.

Authorities have said the man approached Davis and was looking to have his picture taken with him. Prosecutors say the fan was an Army staff sergeant in town on a brief military leave. Authorities have said the man suffered a deep cut that required 10 stitches.

Jones says Davis' three-year sentence will be served concurrently with a 39-month federal firearms sentence that he was given in late August.

Pia Zadora home from Vegas hospital after accident

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A spokeswoman says entertainer Pia Zadora is home from a Las Vegas hospital to continue treatment for serious head and ankle injuries received when she fell from a golf cart last week.

Zadora representative Eileen Koch said in an email Monday the singer-actress was released from University Medical Center in Las Vegas and plans to travel to Los Angeles next week for surgery for a compound ankle fracture.

The 60-year-old Zadora was injured Thursday evening in a fall from a golf cart driven by her teenage son near their northwest Las Vegas home.

Her hospitalization prompted the cancellation of upcoming performances at Piero's Italian Restaurant in Las Vegas.

Zadora was a child Broadway actress and appeared in movies before becoming a singer of popular standards.

AP
In this Jan. 31, 1982 file photo, actress Pia Zadora poses with Timothy Hutton, after her award received for being the new motion picture star of the year, during the 39th annual Golden Globes presentations, in Los Angeles.

Kiss raises $1 million for Oregon military museum

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. (AP)—The band Kiss shed the makeup and pulled out acoustic guitars to raise money for the renovation of the Oregon Military Museum.

The Oregonian reports (http://bit.ly/1q7Ricb) the $2,500-a-ticket gala Sunday night in Lake Oswego raised more than $1 million.

The museum is named for the father of lead guitarist Tommy Thayer. He is Brig. Gen. James B. Thayer, now 93, a World War II hero who liberated a Nazi death camp.

The museum is at the Oregon National Guard's Camp Withycombe in Clackamas. The renovation is expected to cost $15 million, and half has been raised.

An auction Sunday included one of Kiss member Paul Stanley's guitars, fetching $20,000.

The paper reported the band did a 14-song set, closing with an unplugged version of "Rock and Roll All Nite."

The key to being well-liked is to make yourself likable

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old girl. When I'm with the high school group of kids at my church, I try to extend myself and talk, but they never reciprocate much. I always have to try to think of something to say and be careful I don't embarrass myself. Especially around guys, I feel awkward and self-conscious.

I feel OK about myself, but I still get nervous. Other girls find things to talk about to each other but not me, and guys never talk to me first, either. I don't know if I'm doing something wrong or being too careful.

I'm an only child. I get along pretty well with adults, but I have a hard time with kids. I heard you have a booklet about these issues. If you think it might help me, how can I order it?

UNPOPULAR IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR UNPOPULAR: Part of your problem may be that you're an only child, which can be isolating. If you spend most of your time with adults, it's understandable that you are less comfortable with people your own age. But don't let it stop you from trying to be friendly. If guys don't speak to you first, they're probably feeling as awkward as you are. To smile and say hello is NOT being pushy. My booklet "How to Be Popular" is filled with suggestions for polishing social skills. It covers a variety of social situations and is meant for people of all ages. To order, send your name and address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. There are tips for becoming the kind of person other people find interesting, attractive and want to know better. (If parents, teachers and clergy know someone needing help in this regard, it might make an inexpensive gift that could help change the course of that person's life.)

The key to being well-liked by both sexes is: Be kind. Be honest. Be tactful. Don't be afraid to give someone a compliment if you think it's deserved. If you think you're not beautiful (or handsome), be well-groomed, tastefully dressed, conscious of your posture. (People who stand tall and smile project self-confidence.)

If you're not a "brain," try harder. If you are smarter than most, don't be a know-it-all. Ask other people what they think and encourage them to share their opinions. If you're not a good athlete, be a good sport.

Think for yourself, but respect the rules. Be generous with kind words and affectionate gestures, but respect yourself and your family values always. If you think "putting out" will make boys like you, forget it. (It won't work, and later you'll be glad you didn't.) If you need help, ask God. If you don't need anything, THANK God!

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 27-year-old male, and I have no clue how to read women's subtle interest cues, if they ever display any. I'd like to think they have, given that I put in at least two days a week at the gym working with weights.

Since you are a woman, could you please be so kind as to give this man a clue what to look for? It's driving me nuts!

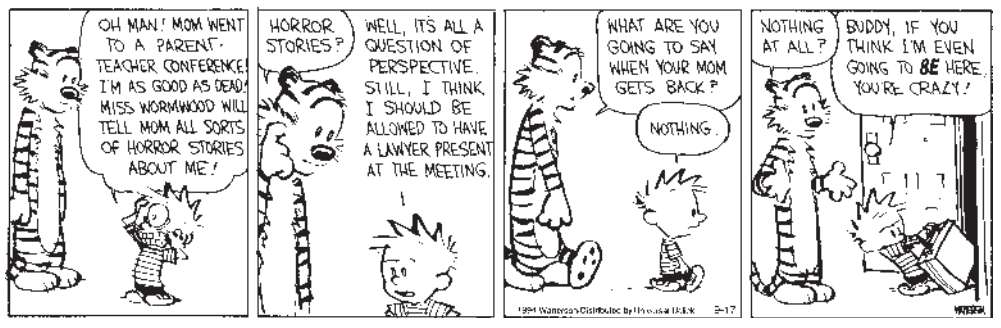
AVAILABLE IN ILLINOIS

DEAR AVAILABLE: The most obvious clues that a woman finds you attractive are eye contact and a smile. That's your opening to make conversation. The rest is up to you!

Pastimes

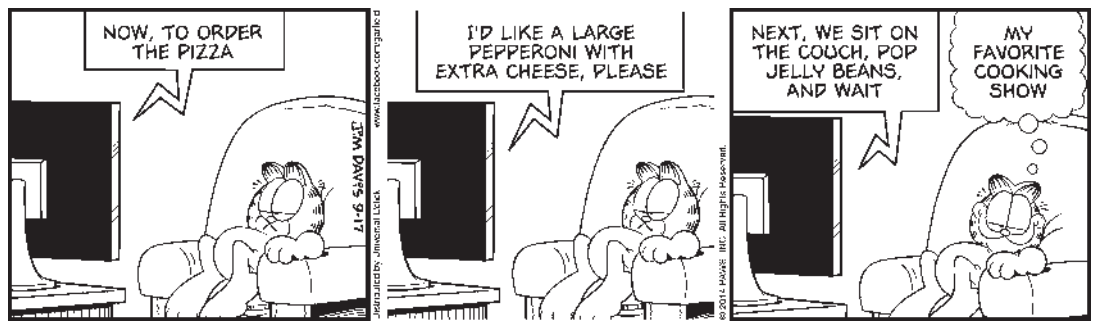
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MAN! MOM WENT TO A PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE! I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD! MISS WORMWOOD WILL TELL MOM ALL SORTS OF HORROR STORIES ABOUT ME!
HORROR STORIES?
WELL, IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF PERSPECTIVE. STILL, I THINK I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT AT THE MEETING.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY WHEN YOUR MOM GETS BACK?
NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL?
BUDDY, IF YOU THINK I'M EVEN GOING TO BE HERE, YOU'RE CRAZY!

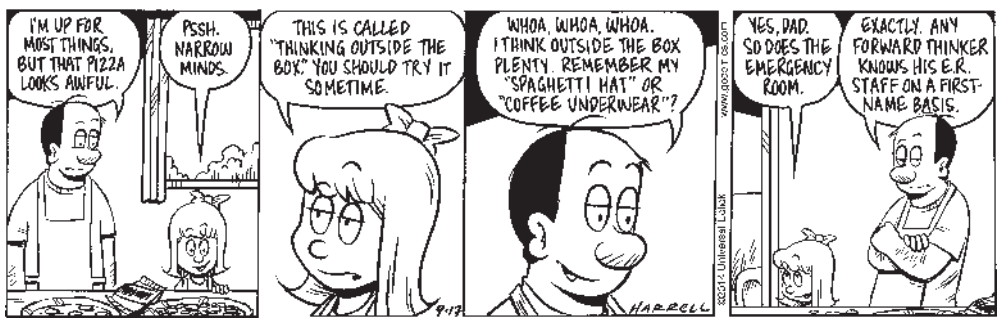
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


NOW, TO ORDER THE PIZZA
I'D LIKE A LARGE PEPPERONI WITH EXTRA CHEESE, PLEASE
NEXT, WE SIT ON THE COUCH, POP JELLY BEANS, AND WAIT
MY FAVORITE COOKING SHOW

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M UP FOR MOST THINGS, BUT THAT PIZZA LOOKS AWFUL.
PSSH. NARROW MINDS.
THIS IS CALLED "THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX." YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME.
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA. I THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX PLENTY. REMEMBER MY "SPAGHETTI HAT" OR "COFFEE UNDERWEAR"?
YES, DAD. SO DOES THE EMERGENCY ROOM.
EXACTLY. ANY FORWARD THINKER KNOWS HIS E.R. STAFF ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS.
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tiny ammo
4 Felon's flight
7 Where David slew Goliath
8 Barn-roof decorations
10 O. Henry's specialty
11 Ask to the party
13 Multi-faceted exercise routine
16 Kreskin's skill
17 Appalachian or Oregon
18 Gov. med watchdog
19 Sock part
20 Astringent
21 Wed
23 Donnybrook
25 Bleachers occupants
26 Hay bundle
27 Coquettish
28 Miss America's headpiece
30 Larry's pal
33 "Some Like It Hot" plot point
36 Embedded, as mosaic tile
37 City destroyed by Godzilla
38 Continental money
39 Holly
40 Superlative suffix
41 Massachusetts cape

DOWN

1 Careless mistake
2 Prohibits
3 Unscrupulous attorney
4 Island porch
5 Blacksmith's need
6 Chow —
7 Blunders
8 Quickly popular, on YouTube
9 Suffocate
10 Lemieux milieu
12 Provide
14 Deuce topper
15 Group of whales
19 Storefront sign abbr.
20 Heady brew
21 New Zealand native
22 Whoever
23 Former filly
24 Stretchable
25 TV monitor?
26 Rhymesters
28 Despots
29 Lamebrain
30 Wearing a wire, maybe
31 Black cameo stone
32 Id counterpart
34 Pivot
35 Unaccompanied

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	H	A	M	■	B	A	M	■	S	L	E	W
T	A	M	E	■	A	S	I	■	E	A	C	H
E	D	I	T	■	B	A	H	B	W	■	H	E
W	I	R	E	T	A	P	■	U	N	C	U	T
■	■	■	C	A	R	■	E	M	U	■	■	■
A	L	A	R	M	■	T	A	P	P	U	M	P
M	O	T	■	■	F	I	R	■	■	F	A	O
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	■	K	R	O	N	E
■	■	■	C	A	T	■	T	E	E	■	■	■
A	C	O	R	N	■	K	I	N	F	O	L	K
F	O	L	K	S	O	N	G	■	I	R	O	N
A	N	D	Y	■	D	O	H	■	L	E	G	O
R	E	E	S	■	E	X	T	■	L	O	O	T

Yesterday's answer 9-17

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jimmie Johnson, 39; Constantine Maroulis, 39; Doug E. Fresh, 48; Kyle Chandler, 49.

Happy Birthday: Positive changes to your personal and professional life are within reach. A force play will be advantageous, so don't fight the inevitable. Use your strengths to get ahead and offer what you know you are good at in ways that suit the economic climate. Work hard and you won't be disappointed. Take the path that allows you to differentiate yourself from the competition. Your numbers are 2, 14, 17, 20, 34, 41, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Doing for others is fine, but once in a while consider what's best for you. Don't labor over what doesn't happen when it's what does happen that requires your undivided attention. Free time will allow you to follow a dream. ✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Bulldoze through your chores. Don't turn down help or be afraid to ask for it if necessary. Diplomacy will get you what you want and keep people coming back to support you in your effort to reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a creative approach to your pursuits and see what transpires. You will be in an affectionate mood and your interests will direct you to a very specific person who shares your values, ethics and plans for the future. ✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will flare up, making it important to focus on being mindful and helpful to those you encounter. Honesty will pay off, and although it may not bring you the news you want to hear, you will find out where you stand. ✪✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make creative changes that will point you in a direction better suited to your skills, knowledge and experience. Not everyone will agree with your plans, but if you follow your heart, you won't be sorry with the end results. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get along with others and accept the way things are going. How you react now will have an impact on the way future prospects unfold. The more adaptable you are, the further you will go. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Arguing will hold you back. Take responsibility for your actions. Put joint ventures on hold until you have a better idea of what's expected of you. Find out the cost involved in anything you want to undertake before you make a commitment. ✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get out and network with new people and form new friendships or work relationships. Lay your cards on the table and discuss your plans to promote and present your skills and strategy. Include someone you love in your plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop waiting and start doing. Nothing will happen if you don't take initiative. Money matters may be uncertain, but if you stick to what you know and do best, you will find a way to bolster your income. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Uncertainties will mount regarding an emotional matter. Stick close to home and you'll avoid a mishap or delay likely to occur if you travel. Go over your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Personal improvements will help you put your best foot forward when dealing with work-related matters. Interviews, updating your resume and discussing future plans will all lead to a lifestyle change that makes you feel good about future prospects. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look for a positive way to develop new interests, friendships or financial growth. Your uniqueness will lead to greater options. Romance will be prominent and making plans to do something entertaining will improve your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, aggressive and in control. You are respected and proactive.

Eugenia's Web sites: *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2	5	9			
		7				9		
	5	9				1	6	
8								7
1								5
	7	5	3		8	6	4	
			7		3			
		1				5		
		6	8	9	5	2		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	6	3	1	4	7	8	9
9	8	1	7	6	2	5	3	4
4	3	7	9	5	8	1	2	6
6	4	2	1	7	5	8	9	3
3	7	9	4	8	6	2	1	5
8	1	5	2	9	3	4	6	7
7	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	8
2	6	8	5	4	9	3	7	1
1	9	4	8	3	7	6	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CASEY KASEM (1932-2014) Solution: 6 letters

Y	T	R	E	B	I	L	I	N	D	A	S	H	S	G
S	E	S	A	M	E	S	T	R	E	E	T	R	D	N
T	G	N	I	D	R	O	C	E	R	N	N	E	N	O
A	Q	V	L	O	V	E	G	A	N	O	E	P	E	S
R	U	O	B	A	T	M	A	N	S	T	T	M	I	R
G	I	I	F	A	M	E	J	P	Y	C	P	U	R	E
U	N	C	A	T	E	E	M	E	C	O	O	J	F	T
R	C	E	K	I	M	O	K	L	A	U	T	F	R	S
T	Y	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓘ	Ⓗ	C	U	G	S	N	L	F	E	U
I	C	A	R	T	O	O	N	S	E	T	E	I	P	B
O	R	C	A	J	S	R	A	E	Y	D	X	L	U	T
R	A	I	C	U	O	O	D	Y	B	O	O	C	S	S
T	D	S	T	L	G	Y	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	O
E	I	U	O	I	R	R	E	K	K	N	I	F	E	H
D	O	M	R	E	W	O	H	S	H	E	B	A	N	G

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Actor, Batman, Cartoons, Casey, Cliffjumper, Countdown, Detroit, Disc Jockey, Fame, Ghostbusters, Hits, Jean, Julie, Kemal, Kerri, Knife, Lexo, Liberty, Linda, Meet, Mike, Music, Network, Quincy, Radio, Recording, Robin, Rugrats, Scooby-doo, Sesame Street, Shebang, Show, Song, Soul, Superfriends, Thompson, Tone, Top Ten, Vegan, Voices, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Photograph

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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Foles leads Eagles to 30-27 win against Colts

AP
Indianapolis Colts tight end Jack Doyle (84) dives in for a two-yard touchdown reception against Philadelphia Eagles outside linebacker Connor Barwin (98) during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—With Nick Foles at quarterback and LeSean McCoy and Darren Sproles in the backfield, the Philadelphia Eagles are never out of the game.

They proved it again on Monday night.

Foles threw a tying touchdown pass with 3:25 to go, and then set up Cody Parkey for the winning 36-yard field goal as time expired, lifting Philadelphia to a 30-27 win at the Indianapolis Colts.

Sproles had seven receptions for 152 yards to go along with a touchdown run as the Eagles (2-0) won their first game on the road for the sixth consecutive season. Philadelphia, which stormed back from a 17-0 halftime deficit to beat Jacksonville 34-17 in Week 1, also became the fourth team in the last 30 years to win consecutive games in which it trailed by 14 or more points in the 2nd half, according to STATS.

"He's just a special player," coach Chip Kelly said, praising Sproles for his role in the prime-time comeback. "The first day we had him it was, `How many different ways can we find ways to get him the football?' He's just a dynamic football player."

Philadelphia's latest rally came against the defending AFC South champs, against a team that had never lost back-to-back regular-season games with Andrew Luck at quarterback. The Colts (0-2) led 17-6 at halftime, but committed two costly turnovers in the second half that the Eagles turned into 14 second-half points.

Foles was 21-of-37 for 331 yards with one touchdown—a 6-yard pass to Jeremy Maclin with 3:25 to go that tied it at 27. McCoy ran 20 times for 79 yards and scored Philadelphia's first touchdown of the night with 4:32 left in the third quarter.

The Eagles appeared to be in trouble when Indianapolis was driving with a 27-20 lead in the fourth. But Luck's short pass intended for T.Y. Hilton with 5:08 to go was intercepted by Malcolm Jenkins.

Two plays later, McCoy was stopped for a loss but LaRon Landry was called for a questionable horse-collar tackle. Sproles then took a swing pass for a 51-yard gain to the 6, and Foles found Maclin for the tying score.

"Without Sproles, we would be in some trouble, to be honest, we really would. That's why we're a team," McCoy said. "When guys are struggling, he's picking everybody up. He's helping me out. I need to get my thing together. I don't feel like I'm playing to the level I should be playing at."

Luck, who was 20-of-34 for 172 yards with three TDs, walked into the postgame news conference for the second straight week and said he made a "stupid" decision when he threw the interception even though replays also appeared to show Hilton had been grabbed by a defender. No call was made.

The calls weren't what the Colts were talking about, though.

Coach Chuck Pagano was more disturbed by the two turnovers, Luck's pick and Trent Richardson's fumble at his own 26-yard line, and a defense that couldn't stop the Eagles over the final 20 minutes of the game.

"The turnovers. Those were the killers in the second half," Pagano said. "You've got to finish games, put people away."

The Eagles' potent offense started slow, managing just two field goals in the first half. They finished strong, tying it at 20 when Sproles managed to stay on his feet for a 19-yard run late in the third and again at 27 on the TD pass to Maclin.

Woods says strength is back, but not swing

WINDEMERE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods is too busy in the gym to find a new swing coach, or even swing a golf club.

Woods said Monday his strength has returned from "busting my butt in the gym pretty hard" and he is on schedule to resume competition in December. But he still hasn't hit a golf ball since he missed the cut at the PGA Championship on Aug. 8, and still doesn't know when he will.

"We're pretty much past the strength phase now, and I've got my strength where I want to have it," Woods said at Isleworth Golf & Country Club, where he lived for the first 15 years of his pro career. "Now I just need to get my fast twitch going and get my speed back, and that's going to take a little bit of time. That's part of our second phase of training. And that's coming up now."

Woods had his fifth surgery in 20 years—this time on his back—and failed to win a PGA Tour event for the third time in the last five years.

Rory McIlroy referred to Woods and Phil Mickelson has being on "the last few holes" of their careers when he was asked about the two best players of their generation not being eligible for the Tour Championship for the first time since 1992.

McIlroy simply was noting their ages (Woods turns 39 in December, Mickelson is 44) and their injuries. And when "the last few holes" became an Internet sensation and McIlroy was asked if he needed to explain his remarks to Woods, he replied with a laugh, "I've said worse to his face."

Woods response?

"I thought it was funny," he said. "Phil has less holes to play than I do, though. It's a reality, you know? We're all older. I'm nearing my 20th season on tour here coming up pretty soon. ... It's just part of the aging process."

The Tiger Woods Foundation announced that India-based Hero Motocorp would be the new title sponsor of Woods' year-end charity event, which is moving to Isleworth from Sherwood Country Club in California. The tournament will be played Dec. 4-7.

Woods played an exhibition in India in February when he met Pawan Munjal, the vice chairman and CEO of Hero.

"That's my last good round I played all year," Woods said. "I shot 63 that day."

Even though he smiled, there was some truth to that. A nagging back injury became progressively worse until Woods chose to have back surgery March 31, forcing him to miss the Masters for the first time and the U.S. Open during a three-month recovery.

When he returned, Woods missed the cut twice, had his worst 72-hole finish in a major and withdrew from a World Golf Championship when he jarred his back hopping off a steep slope into the bunker in the final round at Firestone. He didn't qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs for the second time, both injury related. And he took himself out of consideration as a Ryder Cup pick.

Woods didn't regret coming back too soon. He said he didn't realize how much stamina he lacked.

"I felt good enough to do it, and the only unfortunate part is I couldn't maintain the conditioning," Woods said. "I wasn't as conditioned as I needed to be. So as the tournament would wear on, I would get more and more fatigued and tired, and I wasn't as explosive. I wasn't as strong. ... I couldn't lift the weights that I'm accustomed to lifting, as well as playing and practicing.

Redskins optimistic RG3 will return this season

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—The Washington Redskins are optimistic that Robert Griffin III will return this season. Less clear is how much more Griffin can take before the "injury-prone" label supersedes anything else he accomplishes in his NFL career.

An MRI exam on Monday revealed that Griffin doesn't have any broken bones to go along with his dislocated left ankle, which means he doesn't need season-ending surgery and could theoretically return in a couple of months if all goes well with his rehab. Kirk Cousins will be the starting quarterback for much—if not all—of the rest of the year.

"This game, we only get to play it for such a short period of time," safety Ryan Clark said, "so, for me, it's more just being sad for Rob. The football part of it goes on. The game? The NFL ain't never missed a play. They're going to keep playing no matter who's in those jerseys."

Griffin was hurt when his left ankle planted awkwardly into the turf during the first quarter of the Sunday's 41-10 win over the Jacksonville Jaguars. The scene was familiar: Griffin lying on the turf, the crowd murmuring with concern, teammates offering support. His tears spoke volumes.

Griffin missed all or part of four games during his record-setting rookie season of 2012, yielding the field to Cousins because of a concussion and later due to injuries to a right knee that eventually had to be surgically reconstructed for a second time. In 2013, he missed part of one game with a tweaked left knee and was benched for the final three games by coach Mike Shanahan.

Now the quarterback with the world-class sprinter's body has broken down again.

His MRI results will be sent to a specialist for further analysis, and coach Jay Gruden said he won't have a timetable for Griffin's return until the leg has been in a cast for a few weeks.

Gruden said there's "no consideration" at this point of putting Griffin on season-ending injured reserve. The coach answered "yes" when asked if he was optimistic about having the franchise player back in 2014.

"You're sick about it," Gruden said, "because you spend a lot of time with Robert, getting him ready and you watch how much passion he has for the game and how seriously he takes his job and what kind of will he has to succeed. And he's such a great kid on and off the field that you hate for something like this to happen to somebody.

"It's just a bump in the road for him. It's another little bit of adversity he's going to have to overcome. And part of being a quarterback is your mental toughness and ability to overcome adversity, and he's done it in the past, he'll do it again and we have total faith that he'll bounce back and be as good as ever soon."

Gruden said he doesn't think the troubling list of injuries should cast doubt on Griffin's durability.

"The more injuries mount on him, it just becomes an issue, I guess, for a lot of people to think that his durability's in question. ... I think they're just fluke injuries, and they happen from time to time to certain players," Gruden said. "And hopefully, when he recovers from this, it'll be the last one he ever has."

Meanwhile, Cousins has a sustained chance to prove he can be a starting NFL quarterback. His various fill-in appearances for Griffin have produced mixed results. He looked sharp Sunday, albeit against a Jaguars defense that left receivers open everywhere.

But he looked very comfortable—more so than Griffin—when running new coach Gruden's system during training camp and preseason. Gruden was trying to teach Griffin how to be a pocket-passer; Cousins is already one.

Gruden said he won't have to make any significant changes to the game plan with Cousins calling the signals.

Orioles one win away from AL East title

BALTIMORE (AP)—It's time for the Baltimore Orioles to put the champagne on ice.

The Orioles moved to the brink of claiming their first AL East title in 17 years, using a resilient pitching performance by Wei-Yin Chen to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 5-2 Monday night.

Baltimore can clinch the division crown with a win over Toronto on Tuesday. That would assure the Orioles their second playoff berth in three years following a run of 14 consecutive losing seasons.

''It's pretty special to come in here (Tuesday) and have a chance to do that,'' manager Buck Showalter said. ''I've had a lot of sleepless nights for a lot of reasons, but tonight I look forward to losing that sleep. It's been a long hard grind to have that opportunity, and I'm looking forward to the chance to see our guys get a chance.''

Baltimore (90-60) leads the AL East by 12 1/2 games, its biggest advantage since 1979. One more victory and the Orioles will be in celebration mode.

''We'll enjoy tonight and then come out tomorrow and see what happens,'' catcher Caleb Joseph said. ''If we don't win, then go back and strap it back on and win the next day.''

Chen (16-4) allowed two runs on nine hits over 5 2-3 innings to become the first Orioles lefty to win 16 games since Jimmy Key in 1997—the year Baltimore last won the AL East. Although he yielded at least one hit in every inning but the second, Chen improved to 13-2 in 23 starts since May 9.

''I allowed quite a few hits out there, but I was trying to battle,'' Chen said through an interpreter. ''I was trying to keep the ball down ... without allowing too many runs. Fortunately I can do that with the help of my teammates.''

Zach Britton worked the ninth for his 35th save in 39 opportunities.

Ryan Flaherty homered and Adam Jones had three hits and an RBI as the Orioles secured their eighth win in nine games.

Jose Reyes had three hits and scored twice for the Blue Jays, whose wild-card chances shrink with every defeat.

''We've got a very slim outside shot to get to the playoffs, but we're fighting every night to try to win games,'' manager John Gibbons said. ''But yeah, from that point of view, that's frustrating.''

Blue Jays rookie Marcus Stroman (10-6) gave up five runs and nine hits in six innings. He won his previous three starts.

In the fifth inning, Stroman threw a pitch that soared by the head of Joseph, seemingly a response for Joseph blocking the plate on a slide by Reyes in the top of the inning.

AP

Wei-Yin Chen allowed two runs on nine hits over 5 2-3 innings in their game against the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday, Sept. 15, 2014, to become the first Baltimore Orioles lefty to win 16 games since Jimmy Key in 1997, the year Baltimore last won the AL East.

''It really pushed the hot button with all of us because It certainly wasn't called for,'' Showalter said. ''That was obvious. It was borderline professionally embarrassing.''

Storman insisted the pitch just got away from him.

''Fastball in that just kind of slipped out of my hand,'' he said. ''It's late in the game. I got two big strikeouts. I'm a little excited, and trying to get out of the inning. I know it's possibly my last hitter. Just trying to execute a fastball in.''

Toronto got off to a fast start, using three straight singles to score a run before Chen got an out.

In the bottom of the first, Jones got an RBI on a 50-foot dribbler down the third-base line and another run scored on a double-play grounder.

Nelson Cruz singled in a run in the third and Flaherty hit a two-run shot in the fourth to make it 5-1.

After Danny Valencia singled in a run for Toronto in the fifth, Toronto got two on with one out in the sixth. Chen was pulled after striking out pinch-hitter Colby Rasmus. Brad Brach then struck out Reyes.

Toronto went 3-for-16 with runners in scoring position.

Toronto starters have worked at least six innings in a club-record 21 straight games. The last team with a streak that long was the 2012 St. Louis Cardinals.

Over the last 14 games, Orioles starters are 7-1 with an ERA of 1.69. Baltimore is 11-3 in those games.

Nationals 4, Braves 2

In Atlanta, Stephen Strasburg threw seven scoreless innings to end a long run of frustration against Atlanta, and the Nationals beat the struggling Braves to move to the verge of the NL East title.

The Nationals can clinch the division by beating the defending champion Braves on Tuesday night.

Strasburg (12-11) ended a streak of eight winless starts against Atlanta since 2012.

Wilson Ramos hit his 11th homer in the fifth.

The Braves (75-75) have lost four straight to fall to .500 for the first time since they were 1-1. They trail Pittsburgh by 4 1-2 games for the second NL wild-card spot.

Ervin Santana (14-9) allowed two runs and only three hits.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 2

In Phoenix, the Giants lost their third consecutive game when Mark Trumbo hit a grand slam to lead the Diamondbacks to victory.

Trumbo had five RBIs, and Wade Miley (8-11) bounced back from his shortest outing of the season by pitching seven innings of one-run ball.

San Francisco's NL West chances took a hit with consecutive losses to the Dodgers over the weekend, but the Giants are still in control of the wild-card race, beginning the day with a three-game lead over Pittsburgh for the top spot.

Trumbo hit his ninth homer off Ryan Vogelsong (8-11) in the third inning and a run-scoring single off Juan Gutierrez in the seventh. Trumbo has six hits and nine RBIs the past three games.

Tigers 8, Twins 6

In Minneapolis, Torii Hunter and Miguel Cabrera hit back-to-back home runs in the ninth inning to help the Detroit Tigers tighten their grip on the AL Central by winning their fourth straight game.

The Tigers blew a 6-0 lead they built by the fifth, but after Joe Mauer's second two-run single tied the game for the Twins in the eighth inning, Hunter hit the first pitch of the ninth from Casey Fien (5-6) into the bullpen behind left-center field.

Kyle Ryan (2-0) earned the victory by recording the last out of the eighth.

Royals 4, White Sox 3

In Kansas City, pinch-runners Jarrod Dyson and Terrance Gore scored in the ninth inning as the Royals rallied for a victory over the White Sox to remain 1 1-2 games behind Detroit in the AL Central.

Mike Moustakas doubled with one out in the ninth. Dyson ran for him and stole third and came around to score as Jake Petricka (1-5) threw a wild pitch.

After Nori Aoki, who had four hits, doubled with two outs, Gore ran for him and scored from second on Lorenzo Cain's infield single.

Wade Davis (9-2) worked a scoreless ninth to pick up the victory, extending his scoreless streak to 31 2-3 innings.

Rays 1, Yankees 0

In St. Petersburgh, Ben Zobrist hit a game-ending single with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Rays over the Yankees.

With the Baltimore Orioles' 5-2 win over Toronto, the Yankees were eliminated from AL East title contention in Derek Jeter's final season. Mired in an 0-for-24 slump, Jeter was given the night off.

Logan Forsythe got the Rays' third hit of the game, a one-out single in the ninth off Shawn Kelley (3-6) and went to second on James Loney's single. After pinch-hitter David DeJesus struck out and pinch-hitter Matt Joyce walked, Zobrist lined his hit to right.

Joel Peralta (3-4) walked one while pitching the ninth to help Tampa Bay get its 21st shutout of the season.

Dodgers 11, Rockies 3

In Denver, pinch-hitter Justin Turner ignited an eight-run sixth inning with a tiebreaking two-run double, and the surging Dodgers beat the Rockies.

Los Angeles showed no signs of a letdown after a big series win in San Francisco, where the Dodgers took two of three to extend their lead in the NL West.

Matt Kemp hit a two-run homer. and Adrian Gonzalez had three RBIs. Yasiel Puig showed more signs of getting back on track with two hits.

Jamey Wright (5-4) earned the win.

The Dodgers broke out in the sixth against Christian Bergman (2-4) and two relievers.

Astros 3, Indians 1

In Houston, Jose Altuve had three hits to give him 209 this season and drove in two runs, leading the Astros over Cleveland.

The major league hits leader is just one hit shy of tying the franchise record of 210, set by Craig Biggio in 1998.

Cleveland's wild-card hopes continue to fade with a fourth straight loss. They entered the night five games back for the second AL wild card.

Houston starter Collin McHugh (10-9) allowed five hits and one run — none earned — in 6 2-3 innings.

Indians starter Zach McAllister (3-7) allowed seven hits and two runs in six innings in his first major league start since July 31.

Padres 1, Phillies 0

In San Diego, Andrew Cashner pitched a two-hitter for his third career shutout and the Padres scored on Cody Asche's fielding error in the second inning to beat the Phillies.

Casher (4-7) allowed two hits, struck out seven and walked one in winning for the second straight time after going winless since April 16 against Colorado.

Jerome Williams (3-2) limited the Padres to an unearned run, three hits and two walks in 7 2-3 innings.

Marlins 6, Mets 5

In New York, Jacob deGrom struck out his first eight batters to match a major league record before the Miami Marlins finally started making contact and rallied late for a victory over the Mets.

Adeiny Hechavarria hit a two-run single and Jeff Mathis put Miami in front with an RBI single that capped a three-run eighth inning.

DeGrom whiffed eight consecutive Marlins to begin the game, tying a mark set by Jim Deshaies of the Houston Astros against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sept. 23, 1986.

Casey McGehee got the comeback started with a one-out single and Hechavarria tied it 5-all with a two-run single off rookie Jeurys Familia (2-5).

With the bases loaded, Sam Dyson (3-1) threw a called third strike past Dilson Herrera to end the seventh.

Cubs 1, Reds 0

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo capped his return to the Cubs lineup with a walkoff home run in the ninth inning that gave Chicago a win over the Reds.

Rizzo had missed the last 18 games due to a back problem but drove a pitch from Pedro Villarreal (0-1) over the wall in center field. Rizzo's homer was his 31st of the season and gave Hector Rondon (4-4) the win after he tossed a scoreless inning of relief.

SIS to kick off title retention bid vs Southern

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two Saipan International School players go for a block during their game against Grace Christian Academy in the 2013-2014 season of the MISO boys volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan International School (SIS) opens up its title defense against Saipan Southern High School (SSHS) in the 2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization (MISO) Boys Volleyball League on Sept. 30 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Geckos are the back-to-back champions in the league as they beat GCA two years in a row and they aim to extend the streak and win their third straight title.

Besides the SIS-Southern tiff, five other matches will be played in the opening day of the MISO boys volleyball competition. The SIS' junior varsity (JV) team will take on Southern's varsity squad at 4:15pm at the north side of the court, while Marianas High School (MHS) will host Mt. Carmel School (MCS) in the varsity division with the game to be played simultaneously at the south court.

The SSHS Manta Rays' JV crew will then face the Kagman High School (KHS) Ayuyus' varsity side at 5:15pm at the north court while the varsity teams of Marianas Baptist Academy (MBA) and Grace Christian Academy (GCA) will play at the south court.

Opening day action ends at 6pm with the SIS Geckos' varsity team battling the MHS Dolphins' JV squad, while SSHS' JV team collides with MHS varsity.

Action continues on Oct. 2, Thursday, with MCS facing SIS in an all varsity clash, while SIS takes on MHS in an all JV meeting at 4:15pm.

Other featured matches are GCA-KHS (varsity) and SSHS-MBA (varsity) at 5:15pm and KHS (varsity) against SIS (JV), and MHS versus SSHS in the JV division.

The boys' division games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Meanwhile, the girls' basketball season starts on Oct. 1 with games to be played every Mondays and Wednesdays.

MISO director of operations Nick Gross has yet to release the final schedule in the girls' basketball tournament. He is also hopeful that Tinian and Rota schools can join the tournament.

The new MISO season will be divided into varsity (from grades 9 to 12) and junior varsity (from grades 9 to 10) divisions.

A 12-player line-up in the varsity and 15-player JV roster will be implemented in the league. The deadline for submission of team line-ups and other eligibility requirements is on Sept. 19.

PAIRE

From Page 28

The Paire-MP United tiff was played on Pitch 2, simultaneously with the Kanoa FC-Shirley's FC tussle on Pitch 1. Shirley's went on to post a contrasting win on the other end after cruising to a 6-0 triumph. Shirley's drilled all six goals in the first half with five different players scoring for the team.

Jerlyn Castillo drew first blood for Shirley's FC with her goal in the 48th, while Katherine Magat and Diana Maniacop canned the next two, finding their targets in the 50th and 53rd minute, respectively. Angelica Mia Carreon then registered back-to-back goals, while Jobelle Tabuena closed out for Shirley's with her goal 10 minutes before the lopsided match wrapped up.

Joining Shirley's FC and Paire FC in the winners' circle in the opening week of the fall league was Matansa Football Club, which edged Tan Holdings FC, 2-1.

Lyka Sally and Maile Aldrich tallied one goal apiece for Matansa, while Chloe Salvosa posted the lone goal for Tan Holdings FC. Salvosa scored first, lighting up the board in the 33rd minute, while Sally equalized six minutes later. The go-ahead goal from Aldrich came in the 68th minute.

Meanwhile, four other games were played in the opening week of the competitive league.

In the co-ed U12, Tan Holdings FC and MP United FC dominated separate opponents.

MP United FC shut down Paire FC, 6-0, as six different players scored in the former's rousing season debut. Eun Syu Hahn hit the board right into the second minute, while Kaito Sawaki made it a 2-0 count eight minutes later. MP United's next two goals came in a span of three minutes with Go Sekiguchi firing one in the 26th and Rinto Takahashi in the 29th. Mark Esalan also made it to the board in the 63rd, while Oliver Lee registered the last goal in the game five minutes before the match ended.

In the other U12 game, John Michael Rojas had a hat-trick to power Tan Holdings to a 4-1 victory over Kanoa FC. Rojas logged two straight goals, scoring in the fifth and 11th minute, while Thaipi Austria posted Tan Holding's last goal in the first half for their 3-0 advantage. Rojas completed the hat-trick in the opening minutes of the second half, while Kanoa avoided a shutout after Angelo Ada scored in the 80th.

In the lone boys U18 game last weekend, Tan Holdings also coasted to a debut win after whipping Matansa. Sean Perez led Tan Holding's demolition, drilling six goals. Yoshi Mafnas chipped in three, while Ryan Relucio scored one.

The other boys U18 tiff between MP United and Paire FC, along with the two U15 matches last Friday were rescheduled due to the unavailability of the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

added that he has yet to finalize the rosters of the three teams.

The other age divisions are U8, U10 and U12 coed, and the U14 competitive and co-ed recreation categories.

The tournament, which will have a double elimination format, is open to all organized clubs and village teams.

The deadline for team registration is on Oct. 31 at 5 to 8 p.m. at the Tamuning Gym and the final day of submission of all team rosters is on Nov. 7. The entrance fee is $250 per team payable in cash or check to ACAS.

MVP

From Page 28

merly Island Manpower).

In the two games in the playoffs, Mizer also averaged in twin digits (12.5) after tallying a game-high 18 points in their 70-85 finals loss to San Antonio and 7 in their 77-75 semis victory over Island Floral.

Mendoza, on the other hand, averaged 14.5 points in his last two games with San Antonio, chipping in 12 in their 103-95 win over Saipan Ice in the semifinals and 17 in their title victory over Hite Jinro.

The Marianas High School standout did not top-score for San Antonio in the finals, but he led a pivotal breakaway in the third period to lift his team to the 15-point championship win. Mendoza anchored a 13-2 run to turn a 43-39 advantage to a 56-41 margin in the third and provided stability in the fourth to help San Antonio keep its double-digit lead against Hite Jinro. In that spurt, Mendoza scored eight points, six of them came in succession.

The Finals MVP was Mendoza's second MVP award this year, as he earlier bagged the regular season MVP plum in the DLX caging over at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Meanwhile, besides the MVP awards, league officials handed out trophies, too to the members of the Mythical Five. Mizer led the elite group and was joined by teammate Kevin De Leon, Saipan Ice's Derrick Rangamar, San Antonio's Jaymark De Guzman, and Island Floral's Butch Kaipat. The league also recognized San Antonio's Florie De Guzman as Best Coach, while Maplas was awarded the sportsmanship trophy, and the nine participating teams were given certificates of appreciation.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	90	60	.600	—
Toronto	77	72	.517	12½
New York	76	73	.510	13½
Tampa Bay	73	78	.483	17½
Boston	66	84	.440	24

Central Division

Detroit	84	66	.560	—
Kansas City	82	67	.550	1½
Cleveland	76	73	.510	7½
Chicago	68	82	.453	16
Minnesota	63	87	.420	21

West Division

Los Angeles	94	56	.627	—
Oakland	83	66	.557	10½
Seattle	80	69	.537	13½
Houston	67	83	.447	27
Texas	57	92	.383	36½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	86	63	.577	—
Atlanta	75	75	.500	11½
Miami	73	76	.490	13
New York	72	79	.477	15
Philadelphia	69	81	.460	17½

Central Division

St. Louis	83	67	.553	—
Pittsburgh	79	70	.530	3½
Milwaukee	78	72	.520	5
Cincinnati	71	80	.470	12½
Chicago	66	84	.440	17

West Division

Los Angeles	86	64	.573	—
San Francisco	82	68	.547	4
San Diego	69	80	.463	16½
Arizona	62	88	.413	24
Colorado	59	91	.393	27

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	52	30
Miami	1	1	0	.500	43	49
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	43	45
New England	1	1	0	.500	50	40

South

Houston	2	0	0	1.000	47	20
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	36	36
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	31
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	27	75

North

Cincinnati	2	0	0	1.000	47	26
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	42	29
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	36	53
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	53	54

West

Denver	2	0	0	1.000	55	41
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	47	39
Oakland	0	2	0	.000	28	49
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	27	50

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	17
Washington	1	1	0	.500	47	27
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	43	38
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	28	60

South

Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	44	21
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	47	58
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	58	63
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	31	39

North

Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	41	36
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	48	43
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	42	38
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	47	60

West

Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	43	31
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	57	46
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	48	45
St. Louis	1	1	0	.500	25	51

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ AND ROSELYN MONROYO

Rowena Sison receives a shot from the backline, while Julie Lee stays near the net during their women's B doubles title match against Shirley Kim and Loyda Ito.

Chris Hilario goes for a return while teammate Patrick Fernandez gets ready for the next shot during a game in the men's doubles 35-and-above.

Shirley Kim serves, while teammate Loyda Ito stays on the back for the next play.

Jen Savellano receives a shot from Hannah Choi during the women's doubles A finals. Savellano teamed up with Janelle Pangilinan, while Choi partnered with Alma Ortega.

Andreau Galvez leaps for a smash.

Aries Cordero makes a return from the backline during his and Ferdie Arago's men's A doubles game against Sam Jones and Glenn Bluutjens in the 2014 Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex last month.

Jeremy Montenejo moves forward for a return, while teammate John Cano looks on.

Dianne Francisco attempts a backhand return.

Alma Ortega steps sideways for a return.

Janelle Pangilinan serves to Hannah Choi.

Foles leads Eagles to 30-27 win against Colts

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Orioles one win away from NL East title

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Paire nips MP United in girls U15 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club won its opening game in the girls U15 division of the 2014 NMIFA Fall League after nosing out MP United Football Club, 3-2, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Guinevere Borja lifted Paire FC to the close victory against its rival after scoring all three goals for her team. Borja got her first goal in the 16th minute to give Paire a 1-0 halftime lead, as MP United failed to find the back of the net in the first 45 minutes of play.

Gillian Villagomez then broke MP United's silence with her first goal early in the second half to tie the match before Borja countered a few minutes later to bring the lead back to Paire. Another goal from Villagomez off a penalty kick forced the second standoff, which Borja eventually broke in the 67th minute.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire Football Club's Guinevere Borja, right, goes for a header, while two MP United FC players step in for defense during the second half of their game in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Mendoza, Mizer get MVP awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Young guns Kobee Mendoza and Chris Mizer brought home MVP trophies at the conclusion of the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4 last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mizer was awarded the regular season MVP trophy, while Mendoza bagged the Finals MVP plum. DL Corp. owner and manager Joe Digno and league commissioner Sonny Ebuen presented the trophies to the two MVPs.

The 19-year-old Mizer won the coveted individual award for helping Hite Jinro top the round-robin regular season. Hite Jinro finished the elimination with a 7-1 record, beating San Antonio in the tiebreak for first place due to the winner-over-the other rule. Mizer had a double figure average in eight games, recording his best output (21 points) in their win over deposed champion Island Floral (for-

See MVP on Page 26

Rollers to compete in Guam hoopfest anew

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Three teams from the Rollers basketball program will again see action in the 2014 Guam Thanksgiving Hoopfest set from Nov. 21 to 30 at the Tamuning Gym in Guam.

Rollers basketball program head Joe Diaz said he and 18 adults, most of which are parents of the players, will be accompanying the three teams in the 10th edition of the annual Academy of Computer Arts and Sciences (ACAS) Education and Basketball Center-organized tournament.

The Rollers will be competing for the sixth straight year and this time will join in the Under-14 advanced division, and the U16 and U18 competitive age categories.

Diaz said that he is hoping the three teams would match or even surpass the second place finishes of the Rollers squads that competed last year.

The Rollers placed second to the Inarajan Heat in the U14 recreation and competitive age groups and duplicated that feat in U21 recreation coed division when it finished runner-up to the MTM Falcons.

Diaz said that the Rollers and the parents will be having a meeting on Saturday at the Garapan basketball court in order to organize a fundraising event for the November tournament. The time will be announced before Saturday's event.

The longtime Rollers mentor

See ROLLERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Rollers' Irvyn Malonzo pulls up for a shot against Kagman Sparks' Allen Yu, right, and Jon Santos during their game in the U21 division of the BANMI youth caging last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Rollers will be competing in a tournament in Guam in November.